

COMPLIANCE TESTING PROGRAM

NIJ CTP Administrative Clarification: CTP 2026-01

August 7, 2026

Subject: Follow-up Testing and Inspection (FIT) Requirements for body armor models listed on the Compliant Products List tested to NIJ Standard 0101.07.

This Administrative Clarification (AC) modifies portions of Section 11.8. Surveillance Test Requirements in NIJ CTP Product Conformity Assessment System Document 101-07: Ballistic-Resistant Body Armor Scheme, Version 1.0 (July 26, 2024), as indicated below. This will be referred to as “NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07” here.

The following “Soft Armor FIT Requirements: Phase 1” supersedes NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07 Section 11.8.2.2.

Soft Armor FIT Requirements: Phase 1

Unless otherwise stated in this AC or in sections of NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07 other than 11.8.2.2, all test requirements of NIJ Standard 0101.07 and revisions in Addenda 1, 2, and 3 shall apply.

Test threats: Based on the armor’s NIJ Ballistic Protection Level, either HG1 or HG2, the test threats shall be as indicated in NIJ Standard 0123.00, Section 4, Table 1.

Ballistic Testing: Perforation testing only.

Planar Soft Armor —

Option 1: Shot placement shall be in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 Addendum 2 sections 9.2.1.1 and 9.2.1.3 for smaller-sized production armor panels where the seven required shots for a front panel cannot fit onto one panel only. These would be panels similar in size and dimensions to the NIJ C-1 and NIJ C-2 templates in NIJ Standard 0101.07, Appendix E, Figure E.1 and Figure E.2, respectively.

Required test items:

- Six armor panels: four front panels with neck scoop and two back panels.

Required total number of shots: 26

Required number of shots per test item:

Test threat one:

- One front panel shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, and 3.
- One front panel shall be impacted with shots 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- One back panel shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- Soft armor test threat one shall impact two front panels and one back panel for a total of thirteen fair hit impacts.

Test threat two:

- One front panel shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, and 3.
- One front panel shall be impacted with shots 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- One back panel shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- Soft armor test threat two shall impact two front panels and one back panel for a total of thirteen fair hit impacts.

Total fair impacts shall be twenty-six across both test threats for Option 1.

Option 2: Shot placement shall be in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 Addendum 2 sections 9.2.1.2 and 9.2.1.3 for larger-sized production armor panels where the seven required shots for a front panel can fit onto one panel. These would be panels similar in size and dimensions to the NIJ C-3, NIJ C-4, and NIJ C-5 templates in NIJ Standard 0101.07, Appendix E, Figure E.3, Figure E.4, and Figure E.5, respectively.

Required test items:

- Four armor panels: two front panels with neck scoop and two back panels.

Required total number of shots: 26

Required number of shots per test item:

Test threat one:

- One front panel shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- One back panel shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- Soft armor test threat one shall impact both one front and one back panel for a total of thirteen impacts.

Test threat two:

- One front panel shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- One back panel shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

- Soft armor test threat two shall impact both one front and one back panel for a total of thirteen impacts.

Total fair hit impacts shall be twenty-six across both test threats for Option 2.

Non-Planar Soft Armor:

Option 1: Shot placement shall be in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 Addendum 2 sections 9.2.1.1 and 9.2.1.3 for smaller-sized production armor panels where the seven required shots for a front panel cannot fit onto one panel only. These would be panels similar in size and dimensions to the NIJ C-1 and NIJ C-2 templates in NIJ Standard 0101.07, Appendix E, Figure E.1 and Figure E.2, respectively.

Required test items:

- Eight front panels with neck scoop.

Required total number of shots: 28

Required number of shots per test item:

Test threat one:

- Two front panels shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, and 3.
- Two front panels shall be impacted with shots 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- Soft armor test threat one shall impact four front panels for a total of fourteen fair hit impacts.

Test threat two:

- Two front panels shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, and 3.
- Two front panels shall be impacted with shots 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- Soft armor test threat two shall impact four front panels for a total of fourteen fair hit impacts.

Total fair hit impacts shall be twenty-eight across both test threats for Option 1.

Option 2: Shot placement shall be in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 Addendum 2 sections 9.2.1.2 and 9.2.1.3 for larger-sized production armor panels where the seven required shots for a front panel can fit onto one panel. These would be panels similar in size and dimensions to the NIJ C-3, NIJ C-4, and NIJ C-5 templates in NIJ Standard 0101.07, Appendix E, Figure E.3, Figure E.4, and Figure E.5, respectively.

Required test items:

- Four front armor panels with neck scoops.

Required total number of shots: 28

Required number of shots per test item:

Test threat one:

- Two front panels shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- Soft armor test threat one shall impact two front panels for a total of fourteen fair hit impacts.

Test threat two:

- Two front panels shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- Soft armor test threat one shall impact two front panels for a total of fourteen fair hit impacts.

Total fair hit impacts shall be twenty-eight across both test threats for Option 2.

The following “Limited Coverage Soft Armor FIT Requirements: Phase 1” supersedes NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07 Section 11.8.2.3.

Limited Coverage Soft Armor FIT Requirements: Phase 1

Unless otherwise stated in this AC or in sections of NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07 other than 11.8.2.3, all test requirements in NIJ Standard 0101.07 and revisions in Addenda 1, 2, and 3 shall apply.

Frequency of FIT: Every third FIT if the model is manufactured at a BA9000 facility or every other FIT if the model is not.

Test threats: Based on the armor’s NIJ Ballistic Protection Level, either HG1 or HG2, the test threats shall be as indicated in NIJ Standard 0123.00, Section 4, Table 1.

Ballistic Testing: Perforation testing only.

Limited Coverage soft armor panels used for surveillance testing shall be in accordance with the requirements described in Section 5.3 and Figure B of NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07.

Test items shall be smaller-sized production armor panels similar to the NIJ C-1 template in NIJ Standard 0101.07, Appendix E, Figure E.1 or smaller, with a minimum size of 9 in. x 7 in., and not provide full torso coverage.

A minimum of two fair hit shots shall be placed on each Limited Coverage test item, as described in Section 5.3.4, Figure B of NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07.

Required test items:

- Six armor panels

Required total number of shots: 12

Required number of shots per test item:

Test threat one:

- One panel shall be impacted with two angled shots. One shot shall represent shot 7 angled upward at a 45° angle of incidence and one shot shall represent shot 4 angled at a 30° angle of incidence to one side perpendicular to the first shot.
- One panel shall be impacted with two shots at 0° angle of incidence representing shots 1 and 2.
- One panel shall be impacted with two shots at 0° angle of incidence representing shots 3 and 6.

Test threat two:

- One panel shall be impacted with two angled shots. One shot shall represent shot 7 angled upward at a 45° angle of incidence and one shot shall represent shot 4 angled at a 30° angle of incidence to one side perpendicular to the first shot.
- One panel shall be impacted with two shots at 0° angle of incidence representing shots 1 and 2.
- One panel shall be impacted with two shots at 0° angle of incidence representing shots 3 and 6.

Total fair hit impacts shall be twelve across both test threats. A complete penetration of a Limited Coverage Soft Armor will be considered a testing failure and will not be eligible for Phase 2 testing.

The following “Hard Armor FIT Requirements: Phase 1” supersedes NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07 Section 11.8.4.2.

Hard Armor FIT Requirements: Phase 1

Unless otherwise stated in this AC or in other sections of Document 101-07, all test requirements of NIJ Standard 0101.07 and revisions in Addenda 1, 2, and 3 shall apply.

Test threats: Based on the armor’s NIJ Ballistic Protection Level, either RF1, RF2, or RF3, the test threats shall be as indicated in NIJ Standard 0123.00, Section 4, Table 2.

Ballistic Testing: Perforation testing only.

Armor shall be conditioned by submersion in accordance with ASTM E3112/E3112M-20, Section 9.7.2.

RF1:

3040 E. Cornwallis Road | Hermann Building, Room 216 | Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Phone: (919) 485-2717 | Email: bactp@justnet.org

The number of shots per test item for each test threat shall be the same as conducted during ITT in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 Addendum 1 section 12.1.2.2. NIJ CTP participants designate whether three shots or six shots are taken per test item for each test threat for ITT.

Required test items:

- Six or twelve

Required total number of shots: 36

Required number of shots per test item:

Test threat one:

- Two plates shall be impacted with six shots each or four plates shall be impacted with three shots each depending upon the number of shots per plate designated during initial type testing (ITT) for that armor model.
- Twelve shots overall for test threat one.
- Four shots shall be angled shots.

Test threat two:

- Two plates shall be impacted with six shots each or four plates shall be impacted with three shots each depending upon number of shots per plate designated during initial type testing (ITT) for that armor model.
- Twelve shots overall for test threat two.
- Four shots shall be angled shots.

Test threat three:

- Two plates shall be impacted with six shots each or four plates shall be impacted with three shots each depending upon number of shots per plate designated during initial type testing (ITT) for that armor model.
- Twelve shots overall for test threat three.
- Four shots shall be angled shots.

Total fair hit impacts across all test RF1 threats shall be 36.

RF2:

The number of shots per test item for each test threat shall be the same as conducted during ITT in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 Addendum 1 section 12.1.2.2. NIJ CTP participants designate whether three shots or six shots are taken per test item for each test threat for ITT.

Required test items:

- Eight or sixteen

Required total number of shots: 48

Required number of shots per test item:

Test threat one:

- Two plates shall be impacted with six shots each or four plates shall be impacted with three shots each depending upon number of shots per plate designated during initial type testing (ITT) for that armor model.
- Twelve shots overall for test threat one.
- Four shots shall be angled shots.

Test threat two:

- Two plates shall be impacted with six shots each or four plates shall be impacted with three shots each depending upon number of shots per plate designated during initial type testing (ITT) for that armor model.
- Twelve shots overall for test threat two.
- Four shots shall be angled shots.

Test threat three:

- Two plates shall be impacted with six shots each or four plates shall be impacted with three shots each depending upon number of shots per plate designated during initial type testing (ITT) for that armor model.
- Twelve shots overall for test threat three.
- Four shots shall be angled shots.

Test threat four:

- Two plates shall be impacted with six shots each or four plates shall be impacted with three shots each depending upon number of shots per plate designated during initial type testing (ITT) for that armor model.
- Twelve shots overall for test threat four.
- Four shots shall be angled shots.

Total fair hit impacts across all test RF2 threats shall be 48.

RF3:

Required test items:

- Four

Required total number of shots: 4

Required number of shots per test item:

- Four plates shall be impacted with one shot each.
- One shot shall be an angled shot.

The total number of fair hit shots for RF3 shall be four.

The following “Soft Armor FIT Requirements: Phase 2” supersedes NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07 Section 11.8.3.3.

Soft Armor FIT Requirements: Phase 2

Unless otherwise stated in this AC or in other sections of NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07, all test requirements of NIJ Standard 0101.07 and revisions in Addenda 1, 2, and 3 shall apply.

Test threats: Based on the armor’s NIJ Ballistic Protection Level, either HG1 or HG2, the test threat associated with the complete penetration in Phase 1 shall be used, as indicated in NIJ Standard 0123.00, Section 4, Table 1.

Ballistic Testing: Perforation testing only.

Planar Soft Armor:

Option 1: Shot placement shall be in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 Addendum 2 sections 9.2.1.1 and 9.2.1.3 for smaller-sized production armor panels where the seven required shots for a front panel cannot fit onto one panel only. These would be panels similar in size and dimensions to the NIJ C-1 and NIJ C-2 templates in NIJ Standard 0101.07, Appendix E, Figure E.1 and Figure E.2, respectively.

Required test items:

- Fifteen armor panels: ten front panels with neck scoop and five back panels.

Required total number of shots: 65

Required number of shots per test item:

- Five front panels shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, and 3.
- Five front panels shall be impacted with shots 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- Five back panels shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Total fair hit impacts shall be 65 for Option 1.

Option 2: Shot placement shall be in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 Addendum 2 sections 9.2.1.2 and 9.2.1.3 for larger-sized production armor panels where the seven required shots

for a front panel can fit onto one panel. These would be panels similar in size and dimensions to the NIJ C-3, NIJ C-4, and C-5 templates in NIJ Standard 0101.07, Appendix E, Figure E.3, Figure E.4, and Figure E.5, respectively.

Required test items:

- Ten armor panels: five front panels with neck scoop and five back panels.

Required total number of shots: 65

Required number of shots per test item:

- Five front panels shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- Five back panels shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Total fair hit impacts shall be 65 for Option 2.

Non-Planar Soft Armor:

Option 1: Shot placement shall be in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 Addendum 2 sections 9.2.1.1 and 9.2.1.3 for smaller-sized production armor panels where the seven required shots for a front panel cannot fit onto one panel only. These would be panels similar in size and dimensions to the NIJ C-1 and NIJ C-2 templates in NIJ Standard 0101.07, Appendix E, Figure E.1 and Figure E.2, respectively.

Required test items:

- Twenty armor panels: twenty front panels with neck scoop from the same production lot that experienced the complete penetration during Phase 1 testing.

Required total number of shots: 70

Required number of shots per test item:

- Ten front panels shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, and 3.
- Ten front panels shall be impacted with shots 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Total fair hit impacts shall be 70 for Option 1.

Option 2: Shot placement shall be in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 Addendum 2 sections 9.2.1.2 and 9.2.1.3 for larger-sized production armor panels where the seven required shots for a front panel can fit onto one panel. These would be panels similar in size and dimensions to the NIJ C-3, NIJ C-4, and C-5 templates in NIJ Standard 0101.07, Appendix E, Figure E.3, Figure E.4, and Figure E.5, respectively.

Required test items:

- Ten armor panels: ten front panels with neck scoop from the same production lot that experienced the complete penetration during Phase 1 testing.

Required total number of shots: 70

Required number of shots per test item:

- Ten front panels shall be impacted with shots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Total fair hit impacts shall be 70 for Option 2.

The following “Hard Armor FIT Requirements: Phase 2” is new to the NIJ CTP and is not yet incorporated into NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07 into Section 11.8.4.

Hard Armor FIT Requirements: Phase 2

Phase 2 for hard armor testing shall be conducted when a single complete penetration occurs during Phase 1 testing, and it is determined necessary by the NIJ CTP.

To be eligible for hard armor Phase 2 test, the following applies:

- A single complete penetration during Phase 1 testing occurs.
- The NIJ CTP inspects a test item and confirms there are no construction variations.
- The armor model must have been manufactured at a BA9000 accredited manufacturing facility.
- Successfully completed two FITs, including the Initial Product Inspection (IPI) and one additional FIT.

At the time of an eligible FIT, the Participant must quarantine the required number Phase 2 armors from the same production lot in the event the armor is needed after Phase 1 testing. Participants will be notified through TIMS or by email how many test items to quarantine. If Phase 2 testing is not required, the Participant will be notified through TIMS or by email that the quarantined armor is released. If Phase 2 testing is needed, the Participant will be notified through TIMS or by email to send the quarantined armor to the lab.

Unless otherwise stated in this AC or in other sections of NIJ CTP Ballistic Scheme 101-07, all test requirements of NIJ Standard 0101.07 and revisions in Addenda 1, 2, and 3 shall apply.

RF1 and RF2:

If an RF1 or RF2 armor experiences a single penetration on a fair hit impact during Phase 1 testing, the laboratory must complete the remainder of the FIT process, which includes an NIJ CTP armor inspection.

Ballistic testing: Phase 2 testing repeats ITT testing for the test threat associated with the complete penetration in Phase 1 and includes:

- Armor submersion in accordance with ASTM E3112/E3112M-20, Section 9.7.2.
- P-BFD testing will only consider penetrations. BFD will not be measured.
- Ballistic limit (BL) testing.
- NIJ CTP inspection of armor. Inspection of ICW models will include both hard armor and soft armor components.

Test threats: Based on the armor's NIJ Ballistic Protection Level, either RF1 or RF2, the test threat associated with the complete penetration in Phase 1 shall be used, as indicated in NIJ Standard 0123.00, Section 4, Table 2. The other test threats will not be used.

Number of shots: 60 (36 P-BFD; 24 BL)

Number of test items: Same as ITT for one test threat. Armor shall be tested with either three shots per test item or six shots per test item depending on how the model was tested during ITT in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 Addendum 1 section 12.1.2.2. NIJ CTP participants designate whether three shots or six shots are taken per test item for each test threat for ITT.

Once the NIJ CTP has determined the armor model is eligible for Phase 2 testing, the participant must submit enough test items to complete Phase 2 testing.

RF3:

If an RF3 armor experiences a single penetration on a fair hit impact during Phase 1 testing, the laboratory must complete the remainder of the FIT process, which includes an NIJ CTP armor inspection.

Ballistic testing: Phase 2 testing repeats ITT testing for the RF3 test threat and includes:

- Armor submersion in accordance with ASTM E3112/E3112M-20, Section 9.7.2.
- P-BFD testing will only consider penetrations. BFD will not be measured.
- Ballistic limit testing.
- NIJ CTP inspection of armor. Inspection of ICW models will include both hard armor and soft armor components.

Test threats: The RF3 test threat as indicated in NIJ Standard 0123.00, Section 4, Table 2.

Number of shots: 48 (36 P-BFD; 12 BL)

Number of test items: Same as ITT. NIJ CTP participants designate the number of shots taken per test item for ITT in accordance with NIJ Standard 0101.07 section 12.1.2.1. Armor shall be tested with the same number of shots per test item depending on how the model was tested during ITT.

Once the NIJ CTP has determined the armor model is eligible for Phase 2 testing, the participant must submit enough test items to complete Phase 2 testing.

Phase 2 Success for All Armor Models:

Phase 2 testing shall be considered a success if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) Phase 2 perforation testing does not result in any complete penetrations of the armor.
- (2) Ballistic limit testing results meet the performance requirements in NIJ Standard 0101.07.
- (3) The NIJ CTP's post-test review of the tested armor and Participant-provided documentation determines that all program requirements have been met.
- (4) There are no construction variations when compared to the ITT documentation and/or archived test items for that model.

If one of the options above occurs during Phase 2, the test shall be considered a testing failure and NIJ shall suspend the model from the NIJ Compliant Product List and issue a NIJ Advisory Notice for the model.

Phase 2 Failure for All Armor Models:

All Phase 2 testing failures shall follow the procedure identified in NIJ CTP Product Conformity Assessment System Document 101-06-FIT: Ballistic Body Armor Follow-up Inspection and Testing Scheme, Section 7.4.2.5, if one or more of the following occur:

- (1) A Phase 2 perforation test results in a single or multiple complete penetrations of the armor.
- (2) Ballistic limit testing results do not meet the performance requirements in NIJ Standard 0101.07.
- (3) The NIJ CTP's post-test review of the tested armor and Participant-provided documentation determines that all program requirements have not been met.
- (4) There are construction variations when compared to the ITT documentation and/or archived test items for that model.

If one or more of the options above occurs during Phase 2, the test shall be considered a testing failure and NIJ shall suspend the model from the NIJ Compliant Product List and issue a NIJ Advisory Notice for the model.

3040 E. Cornwallis Road | Hermann Building, Room 216 | Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Phone: (919) 485-2717 | Email: bactp@justnet.org

A Program of the National Institute of Justice, operated by RTI International