

## Topic: Key Features of Armor Construction

### *Purpose*

It has come to our attention that applicants are fielding body armor that may contain features not previously anticipated by the CTP when the initial testing and evaluation was performed. All key features of armor construction shall now be documented in the model application package.

Significant variations to key features will be considered as a different and distinct model. This includes variations to “Gender Neutral Armor” to accommodate body differences.

### *Key Features of Armor Construction*

Key features include, but are not limited to: materials of construction (and source), slits, slots, cuts, notches, seams, darts, stitching, overlaps, folds, additional panels or similar features. Documentation shall include each feature, the size range, extent for production armor and any other details that could impact performance.

Any future changes to these key features shall be communicated to and approved by the CTP prior to implementation in the design or fielding of any models utilizing these changes.

### *Action Required for Models Currently Listed (NIJ Standard-0101.06)*

**Complete construction documentation, including key armor construction features, for every model currently listed (on the NIJ Compliant Products List) shall be submitted to the CTP by COB Dec. 4, 2009.**

### *Action Required for Models Currently Being Evaluated*

**Final compliance decisions will not be completed until key features have been documented and submitted to the CTP for review and inclusion in the model application package.**

### *Features Accommodating the Female Form*

Armor models that use key features, such as notches, along the outer perimeter of the front armor panel to accommodate the female form will be tested as nonplanar armor (see NIJ Standard-0101.06, Section 4.2.5.4) with additional guidance by the CTP. Specifically, for notches or similar features, the applicant-defined shot-to-edge distance for each caliber shall be referenced from the edge of the panel with the notch closed.

**Figure 1. Female Armor With Notches**

