



Home Office

# Home Office Body Armour Standard 2017

## Certification Guidance for Manufacturers

Version 1.0 July 2024

# Home Office Body Armour Standard 2017 Certification Guidance

The guidance below is to be used by manufacturers in conjunction with the Home Office Body Armour Standard 2017 Standard 2011 (Pub. 012/17) to provide details of the compliance and certification processes not currently covered within the standard. Process maps are also available for use with this document.

## Manufacturer

1. Ensure technical file is completed with all necessary details using technical file review document. This should include photographs of the Construction, stitching locations, etc.
  - a. If NDA's are required this should be discussed between the material supplier/manufacturer and test house as required.
  - b. If a plate is to be certified in conjunction with a soft armour then the backing armour must be certified and within its expiry date.
  - c. If the intended design is outside the scope of BAS17 or the current accredited size range, the HO Technical Partner should be contacted for advice prior to submission for test.
2. Identify a test house from the details listed on the PED.
3. Send technical file and review document to chosen test house.
  - a. PQT tests **must now be completed by alternative test houses** to ensure that three test houses have been used prior to next PQT at the facility used for Initial.
  - b. If PQT test is required, manufacturer must check where previous tests were conducted.
  - c. **PQT Tests must be performed within one month of certificate expiry or a full certification test will be required.**
4. If issues found, test house will contact manufacturer with details of the issue and any required information.
5. If no issues are found test house will inform manufacturer that they intend to test.
  - a. At this point armour should be sent to the Test House for assessment.
  - b. If threat rounds/protection levels are requested that are not covered in BAS17 these can be tested but do not form part of the Test Report or CoA assessment.
6. If armour fails to meet requirements of Standard, test house will inform Home Office, HO Technical Partner and manufacturer, sharing results of failure.
  - a. If an armour has failed initial certification testing, the model number cannot to be used again on any new armours.
  - b. If an armour meets some protection levels tested but not all stated (eg: HO2/KR1/SP1 elected but fails SP1, can therefore be dropped to HO2/KR1 only), the manufacturer may request that the protection level be changed to suit however a new Technical file must be submitted and the Home Office/HO Technical Partner notified prior to issue of the CoA.
  - c. If there is a failure at PQT an investigation is required prior to full certification retest being performed (see Para 10.9 BAS17). The Home Office and HO technical partner to be notified in all circumstances of the cause of non-conformance.
  - d. If a Female Front fails PQT testing and after investigation the manufacturer wishes to remove this style from the model certification (eg: 'Male/ Female –

Unformed' changed to 'Male ONLY') this is possible however a new Technical file must be submitted and the Home Office/HO Technical Partner notified prior to issue of the CoA.

7. If armour meets the requirements of the Standard, test house will send confirmation of accreditation (CoA) and CoA summary to Home Office.
  - a. If a Female Front (Formed) or Extended Coverage panels are tested at a later date than the main armour model then the INIAL Test Ref and Expiry Date will be used to cover both should the armour meet the requirements of the Standard.
8. Home Office will issue Certificate of Accreditation.
9. Home Office will update PED with certified armour details.
10. In accordance with BAS17 3.9, upon INITIAL certification, a sealed medium sized sample of armour must be sent to the HO technical partner for reference storage.

## Abbreviations

NDA	Non-disclosure Agreement
PED	Police Equipment Database
PQT	Production Quality Test
HO	Home Office
CoA	Confirmation Of Accreditation

