

Section 41 - Equipment

New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

41.1 Vests

OPERATIONS

STANDARD 41.1 **The agency requires that a soft body armor vest or jacket is provided to every officer whose regular duties are such that they may expose the officer to serious physical injury which may result in death or disability.**

Commentary: *The intent of this standard is to ensure officer safety. While compliance with this standard requires only that accredited agencies provide officers with soft body armor, agencies are encouraged to adopt an internal policy or order that requires officers to wear the vests while on duty.*

Compliance Verification Strategies

Assessors may seek to verify compliance with this standard by using one or more of the strategies listed below. There may be other strategies identified by the agency which could also be acceptable.

1. A copy of agency procedures for requesting and issuing vests is available for review.
2. Interview(s) with personnel to determine if a soft body armor vest is provided to every officer whose assignments fit the criteria specified in the standard.
3. Interview(s) with personnel responsible for reviewing/authorizing requests for purchases of soft body armor to verify their knowledge of and compliance with the standard.