
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Order <input type="checkbox"/> Division Order <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau Order <input type="checkbox"/> Special Order Order No: 19-100 ----- <input type="checkbox"/> Procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rule	Iowa Department of Public Safety	
	TITLE/SUBJECT: Protective Vests	IDENTIFIER: 22-03.04
	TO: All Sworn Personnel	CC:
	RELATED DIRECTIVES/FORMS:	
	APPLICABLE CALEA STANDARD(S): 41.3.5 & 41.3.6	
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 9-20-19	REVISION #: 3
	INSTRUCTIONS: Changes have been made in Section V.B.	
	PPROVED BY:  Lt. Brett Tjepkes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner	DATE: September 6, 2019

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the guidelines under which the protective vests are worn by sworn members of the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

II. Policy

- A. It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Public Safety that all sworn members of the organization are provided with protective vests. The following provisions are applicable September 1, 2012.
- B. Concealable soft body armor is required to be worn by all sworn members of the Iowa State Patrol when in uniform. The concealable soft body armor will be worn unless exempted as follows:
 - 1. The trooper has a certifiable medical condition that would preclude wearing body armor and has provided the exemption from the physician to the department.
 - 2. The trooper is involved in an undercover or plainclothes operation and the member's supervisor determines that wearing the vest could compromise the undercover operation and the safety of the trooper.
 - 3. When the Colonel or Division Director (or their designee) determines that circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor. The request will come through the Chain of Command and contain information as to the reason for the exemption and how long the exemption will last. Under extreme or articulable circumstances a District Commander, Assistant District commander, or Special Agent in Charge may give permission to an officer under his/her command to not wear the soft body armor for a given shift.
 - 4. Note: Specialized field assignments or activities, such as Tactical Team, WMD or Mobile Field Force events may require alternate body armor in lieu of the concealable soft body armor required by this section. This does not remove the responsibility of the trooper to wear their normal body armor while travelling to and from a tactical operation.

III. All concealable body armor must:

- A. Comply with protective and related requirements prescribed under current standards of the National Institute of Justice.
- B. Provide a minimum protection of Level 2.
- C. Not be worn beyond the manufacturer's suggested expiration date without Department approval.
- D. Be worn, however the shock plate is optional and at the discretion of the officer.
- E. Be worn under the uniform shirt except when on the range where it may be worn on the outside of the clothing.
- F. Be readily available, if working under a waiver.

IV. The protective vest is also mandatory for sworn personnel under the following circumstances:

- A. When participating in firearms training of any kind.
- B. When participating in defensive tactics training where body strikes are being performed.
- C. When participating in the planned execution of a warrant of any type.
- D. When assisting the State Patrol Tactical Team or any other Tactical Team at the scene of any incident.
- E. At the scene of any incident where there is a high probability of the existence of firearms or physical violence, and time exists to retrieve the vest.

V. Purchase of protective vests by Iowa Department of Public Safety members:

- A. A sworn member may purchase a vest of their preference at their own expense as long as it meets the minimum protection level as determined by the department. The vest shall be approved by the department prior to purchase.
- B. Ballistic vest purchases for the Department of Public Safety will be determined by Division Directors, Fleet & Supply Commander, with input from the State Police Officers Council. If testing and evaluation (T&E) comparisons of ballistic vests is determined necessary by the department prior to purchase, the field testing it will be coordinated by the Fleet & Supply Officer along with officers chosen by the Department and the State Police Officers Council to include at least one representative from each of the sub-organizations (Troopers Association and Agents Association). The final decision on all ballistic vest purchases, and selection(s) of vest(s) by the department will be made by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, Division Directors, or their designees(s). The department will provide funding towards the purchase or replacement of a vest up to the contract price of the departmental issued vest. The department will maintain the vest on the officer's inventory as part of their state issued equipment.