



St. Thomas Police Service

BOARD POLICY

Subject:	Equipment – Body Armour
Policy Number:	AI-015
Effective Date:	April 1, 2024
Reviewed:	April 22, 2026
Authorized:	Police Services Board

AUTHORITY / LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

- *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act*
- *Ontario Regulation 405/23 – Police Uniforms and Equipment*
- *Ontario Regulation 391/23 – Use of Force and Weapons*

POLICY STATEMENT

The St. Thomas Police Service Board is committed to ensuring the safety and protection of members through the provision of high-quality body armour. Recognizing the critical role of body armour in safeguarding officers from ballistic, edged, and other operational threats, the Board establishes this policy to guide the acquisition, use, and maintenance of body armour equipment.

POLICY APPLICATION

It is the policy of the Board with respect to equipment – body armour that the Chief of Police shall:

- i. ensure the provision of body armour equipment is:
 - a. constructed to provide the level of protection necessary for the performance of duty that addresses:
 - the type of weapons members are likely exposed to;
 - protection for members from their own handguns and ammunition that are in accordance with prescribed specifications;
- ii. ensure the provision of body armour that is purchased from manufacturers that:
 - a. practice effective quality control for testing and labelling in accordance with current National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standards/Requirements on Ballistics Resistance of Body Armour;

- b. are certified under current International Organization for Standardization – ISO 9001:2015 standards for production and manufacturing; and
 - c. ensure that the body armour provided is listed on the NIJ Compliant Products List, including replacement panels and carriers, in accordance with current NIJ Standards/Requirements;
- iii. ensure that each member uses, maintains and cares for the body armour provided in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions;
 - iv. ensure that a formal and documented inspection program is in place that addresses wear and tear;
 - v. ensure that members receive the appropriate training on the legislative requirements of OSHA and information on use and care, as well as the benefits and limitations of body armour; and
 - vi. consult with designated employee representatives regarding the acquisition of body armour.

Publication of this guideline revision does not invalidate or render unsuitable any body armour models previously determined by the NIJ to be compliant to NIJ Standard 0101.06 Rev. A Requirements. While it may not be necessary to remove these existing armours from service, agencies are advised to always require their procurements to meet or exceed the most recent and up-to-date version of this guideline