

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Federal Bureau of Prisons



PROGRAM STATEMENT
Staff Protective Vest Procedures

Approved by	 William K. Marshall III Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons
DPI	CPD
Number	5576.14
Date	September 3, 2026

Summary of Changes

<i>Program Statement Rescinded:</i> ■ 5576.13 National Protective Vest Procedures (6/15/2021)
<i>Changes:</i> ■ Updates the title of this program statement to Staff Protective Vest Procedures. ■ Removes all references to the Union.

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This program statement is intended to authorize and regulate the issuance of stab-resistant protective vests to Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) staff at institutions with Low, Medium, High security level designations, as well as Administrative facilities. Vests are considered as personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff when required under this program statement. The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and its implementing regulations should be consulted for any other safety matter concerning vests not detailed in this program statement.

a. Program Objectives.

- Staff are provided an additional measure of protection while working within the secure confines of Low, Medium, and High security institutions and Administrative facilities.

b. Institution Supplement. None.

2. PROTECTIVE VEST ISSUANCE AND MAINTENANCE

All staff at Low-, Medium-, and High-Security institutions and Administrative facilities will be issued a stab-resistant vest.

The Captain at each institution is the point of contact (POC) for staff to direct e-mail requests, questions, or concerns in reference to the vest. Staff must be notified of the Captain being the vest POC during Introduction to Correctional Techniques (ICT) and Annual Training.

a. **Fitting, Maintenance, and Care.** Staff will be measured and fitted for a vest in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Staff's vest measurements must only be shared with persons who have a need to know this information.

Each staff member receiving a vest must be provided instructions for the proper care and maintenance. Staff are responsible for the routine cleaning and storage of their issued vest.

A newly-hired staff member will be fitted during ICT. A vest from the institution's current inventory will be provided until the staff member's fitted vest arrives, at which time they must return the temporarily issued vest.

Staff not assigned to a vest institution may request a vest. If requested, staff will be fitted for and receive a vest. These staff will be required to wear the vest within the secure confines of the institution in accordance with this program statement.

Vests returned by staff will be cleaned by the institution in accordance with according to vendor instructions prior to issuance to another staff member.

Institution reserve vests must be stored in the Lockshop, armory, Control Center, or other secure area outside the secure perimeter. This area should allow for vest storage in accordance with the manufacturer's wear and care requirements.

The process of surveying and disposing of vests will be determined by the Captain in coordination with the Security Officer.

T-shirt style and/or Velcro strap style carriers or outer carriers are authorized for initial issuance with the vest.

b. **Transferring Staff.** If a staff member transfers from one vest institution to another, their vest will be transferred as accountable property using a BP-A0100, Store Requisition, Invoice and Transfer Receipt form. Staff will retain their previously-issued vest for use at the new institution.

If a staff member transfers from a non-vest institution to a vest institution, they must be fitted during initial orientation and issued a temporary vest from the institution's current inventory. The temporary vest will be returned upon receiving the fitted vest.

c. **Replacement.** If a staff member loses their vest or it is stolen, they must immediately notify the Captain or designee in writing and will be provided a temporary vest immediately until a new fitted vest is provided.

If a staff member asserts their vest no longer properly fits or is unserviceable, they must notify the Captain or designee. The staff member must be remeasured in accordance with vendor specifications to determine if they require a different size vest. If a different size is warranted, a new vest will be ordered within 30 days from the date of measurement. If a vest is ordered, a temporary vest will be provided to the staff member from the institution's current inventory.

Pregnant staff must be issued maternity vests as soon as practicable upon being requested.

Vests with an expired warranty according to vendor specifications, must be replaced as soon as practicable.

3. WEAR REQUIREMENTS

Staff, including Public Health Service (PHS) working within Low-, Medium-, and High-Security institutions and Administrative facilities will be issued and are required to wear the vest at all times within the secure confines of the facility.

Staff may wear the protective vests underneath their shirt or outside of their shirt in an approved outer carrier. If staff wishes to wear the vest with an approved outer carrier, it must be an authorized carrier that matches the uniform pants color. Non-uniform staff must wear a black outer carrier.

Staff temporarily assigned or performing work at a vest institution/location will be required to wear a vest (e.g., internal control audits, staff assists).

Contractors and volunteers may be provided with a vest at their request from the institution's reserve vests. The Captain shall determine accountability procedures for issuance and return of the vests.

For routine contractors, the Warden may authorize the issuance of a protective vest for the duration of routine badged contractor services via a BP-A0100, Store Requisition, Invoice and Transfer Receipt form. All issued vests must be returned to the institution upon termination of routine services.

For non-Bureau individuals, protective vest panels will be issued in clean, manufacturer provided, plain white carriers with no Bureau or law enforcement identifiers.

- a. **Emergency Response.** Staff responding to an emergency from a non-mandatory vest location or area will be expected to respond without delay. Staff are not required to don a vest prior to responding to the affected area.
- b. **Training.** Staff are expected to wear their vest while participating in applicable training sessions relating to self-defense tactics, regardless of training site location.
- c. **Exceptions.** Staff who do not respond to institutional emergencies while working an assignment/position outside the secure confines of the institution (e.g., training assignments, armed posts, Rear Gate) are not required to wear the stab-resistant vest.

A staff member assigned to an armed post will not be required to wear both the stab-resistant vest and the ballistic vest. A staff member temporarily reassigned to an armed post must wear the ballistic vest during their reassignment. If upon conclusion of the armed post, the staff member returns to an unarmed post, they must wear their stab-resistant vest.

A reasonable accommodation will be provided for any staff member who, due to a qualified temporary disability, such as a disabling condition related to pregnancy, either cannot be provided with a properly fitted vest from the manufacturer or cannot safely wear a vest. No staff member may assume any post requiring a vest if they are, for any reason, not wearing a properly fitted vest.

REFERENCES

Bureau Forms

BP-A0100 Stores Requisition, Invoice, and Transfer Receipt

Records Retention Requirements

Requirements and retention guidance for records and information applicable to this program are available in the Records and Information Disposition Schedule (RIDS) on the Bureau's intranet site.