

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS—BEST PRACTICES

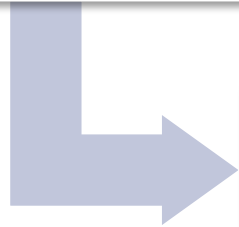
Exoskeleton Standards Technical Interchange Meeting

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Overview

Federal policy on standards development



Characteristics of effective standards development activities



Brief example

Office of Management and Budget Circular A-119

- Guidance to U.S. federal agencies from in support of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) – Public Law 104-113
- Provides guidance on:
 - Choosing and using voluntary consensus standards in lieu of government-unique standards;
 - Participation in standards development activities;
 - Choosing methods of conformity assessment;
 - Considering international standards and obligations.
- Broad in scope - applies to regulatory activities, procurement activities, and programs.

Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards

- Preference for use of existing voluntary consensus standards over government-unique standards where feasible (unless inconsistent with law or otherwise impractical).
- Also permits agencies to consider other types of standards to meet the missions and priorities of the agency.
- Focus on the attributes of the standards development process:

Openness

Balance

Due Process

Appeals Process

Consensus

Landscape for successful standardization

- Who are the stakeholders, what do they need?

- ✓ Current and future users
- ✓ Manufacturers
- ✓ Research and testing

Buy In
Interest & Resources

Process Driver

Balance

- What is the state of the technology?

- ✓ Ready for standardization?
- ✓ Areas of common development

Prioritization

Roadmap

- What is needed from standards development organizations?

- ✓ Related experience
- ✓ Process and infrastructure

Consensus

Publication

Dissemination

UTILIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Example: Harmonization of Body Armor Standards

3 United States (U.S.) Federal Agency Partners:



Army Program Executive Office – Soldier (Department of Defense):
Body armor for military

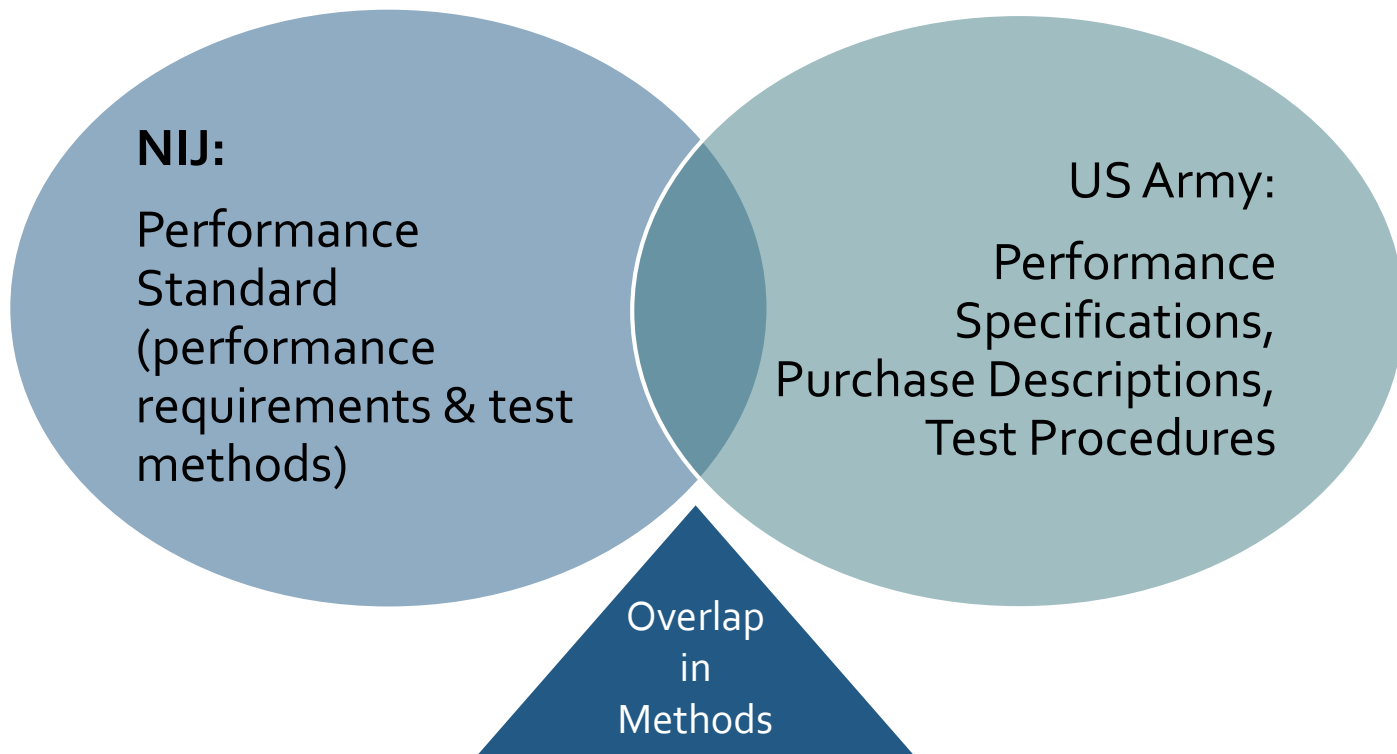


National Institute of Justice (Department of Justice):
Body armor for law enforcement

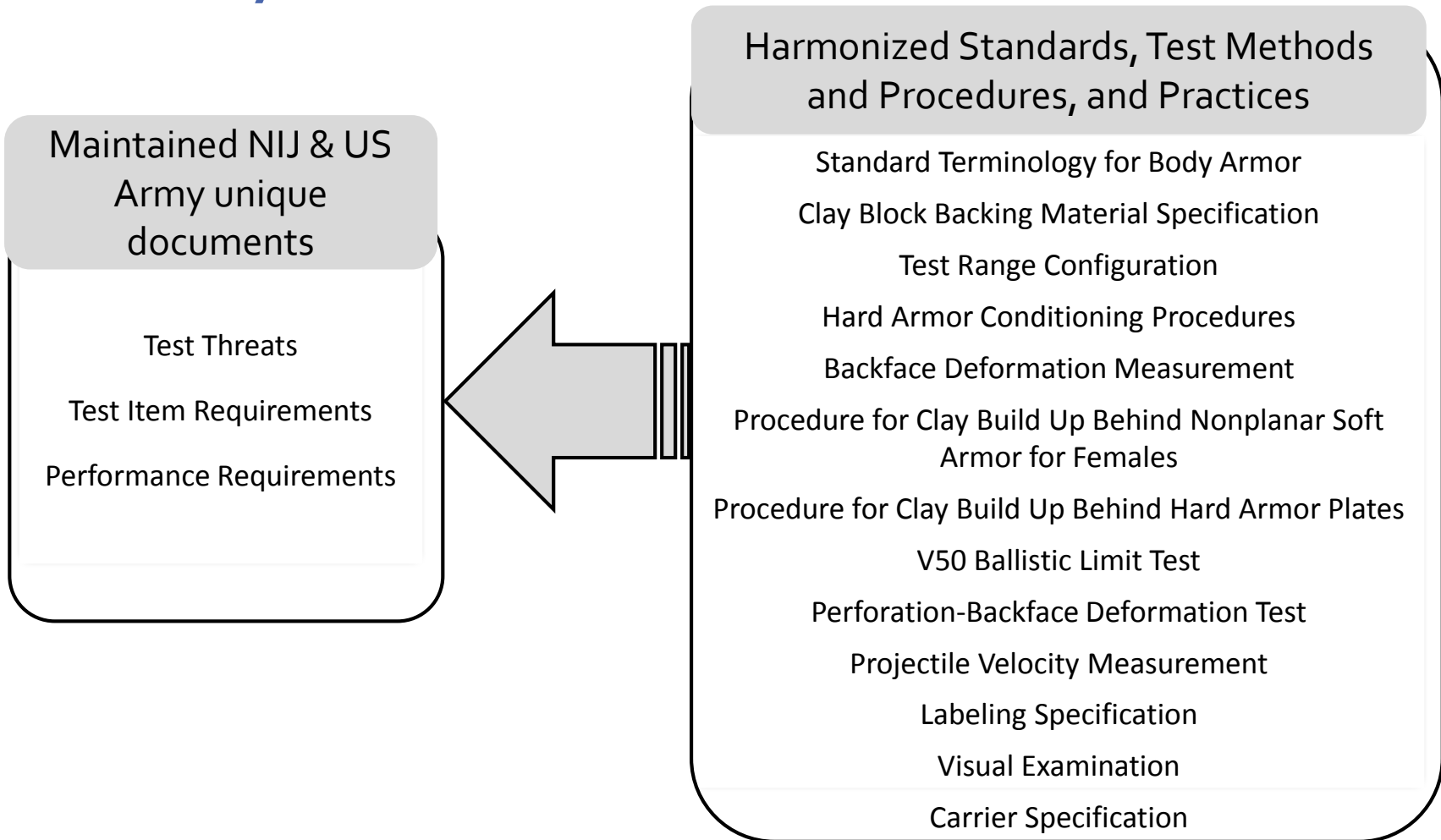


National Institute of Standards and Technology (Dept. of Commerce):
Research and standards development in support of military and law enforcement body armor

Example: Harmonization of Body Armor Standards



Example: Harmonization of Body Armor Standards



Parting thoughts...

- Federal policy provides characteristics of preferred standards development processes.
- Effective, sustainable standards development is hard work.
- Stakeholder engagement and discussion is the critical first step.

Questions?

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