



Producers of body armor and other protective gear for law enforcement, criminal justice, and other applications may find a competitive advantage in achieving **BA 9000** certification!

WHAT IS BA 9000 CERTIFICATION?

BA 9000 was originally released in January 2012 following a collaboration involving the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) reviewing the needs of criminal justice agencies. An extension of ISO 9001, a popular quality management standard, BA 9000 is a part of the more extensive and frequent testing and environmental efforts that resulted from their collaboration. To adopt the revisions to ISO 9001:2015, BA 9000: 2016 was published in October 2016. Manufacturers who wish to become BA 9000 certified must comply with additional requirements beyond ISO 9001 that are specific to ballistics-resistant body armor manufacturing and testing. While this standard is voluntary, it is recommended by the NIJ. The following are some key points:

- Manufacturers must conduct bulk lot testing of ballistic-resistant materials and materials used for panel covers.
- This can be done by an ISO/IEC 17025-accredited laboratory, or if an unaccredited laboratory is used, the organization must validate the laboratory's performance on an annual basis through re-testing material lots by an accredited laboratory.
- Manufacturers must maintain documented information for a product recall process.
- Organizations manufacturing soft armor panels must conduct monthly water infiltration tests and construction inspections.
- Manufacturers must maintain documented information related to the stitches and seams it uses in the construction of its products.

While certification to BA 9000 is not mandated or regulatory, there are some clear benefits. These include:

- *Reduced Testing:* Testing frequency may be reduced by up to half for manufacturers who are certified to BA 9000!
- *Competitive Advantage:* Becoming certified to BA 9000 can be viewed as an indication of dedication to quality by both current and prospective clients; this can be a great advantage in an industry where quality could determine the difference between life and death.



PJR ADVANTAGES

As a leader in the certification industry, PJR is focused on our clients' satisfaction and success! Our experienced auditors and dedicated schedulers give each client the individual one-on-one attention they deserve with detailed audit plans, flexible scheduling, and value-added auditing.

Request a **FREE** quote today and see what a difference PJR can make!

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