



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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