

MSA BODY ARMOR FORCEFIELD™

CARE AND USE

WARNING

THIS MANUAL MUST BE CAREFULLY READ AND FOLLOWED BY ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE, OR WILL HAVE, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR USING OR SERVICING THE BODY ARMOR. THE BODY ARMOR WILL PERFORM AS DESIGNED ONLY IF USED AND MAINTAINED ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS; OTHERWISE IT COULD FAIL TO PERFORM AS DESIGNED, AND PERSONS WHO RELY ON THE BODY ARMOR COULD SUSTAIN SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

The warranties made by MSA with respect to the product are voided if the product is not used and maintained in accordance with the instructions in this manual. Please protect yourself and your employees by following the instructions. Please read and observe the WARNINGS and CAUTIONS inside. For any additional information relative to use or repair, write or call 1-800-MSA-2222 during regular working hours.



For More Information, call 1-800-MSA-2222 or Visit Our Website at www.MSAnet.com



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MSA FORCEFIELD BODY ARMOR

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⚠ WARNING

- **Police work and law enforcement is an inherently hazardous and unavoidably dangerous activity. No protective garment is bullet proof. This garment will not provide protection from all threats potentially faced in the line of duty.**
- **This ballistic vest provides LIMITED protection to the areas of the body covered by the ballistic panels. It complies with NIJ Standard 0101.04; however, it will not protect the wearer against all ballistic hazards. This vest, when properly assembled, used and maintained will comply with the NIJ threat level stated on the label of the ballistic panel when exposed to the specific bullet calibers, constructions, and velocities specified in the standard.**
- **This armor may NOT provide protection against bullets of a caliber, construction and/or velocity not specified in the NIJ 0101.04 standard at the threat level stated..**
- **This armor does NOT provide protection against stabs, slashes, spikes, or against sharp edged or pointed objects unless stated on the label. Armor used against such hazards MUST be compliant with NIJ Standard 0115.00.**
- **For maximum protection, the vest MUST fit properly. Inspect prior to EACH use by following the inspection procedure in the instructions. Replace damaged or worn vests/panels immediately.**
- **This body armor provides no protection to areas of the body that the ballistic panels do not cover.**
- **The body armor carrier provides no ballistic protection. It is designed to carry and hold the ballistic panels in place.**

Failure to follow all warnings and instructions can result in serious personal injury or death.

This product has been tested to and is compliant with NIJ Standard 0101.04 Ballistic Resistance of Personal Body Armor 2005 interim requirements at the threat level indicated on the product label. It was designed to stop specific threats as defined by this standard.

DESCRIPTION

Concealable Armor

Concealable armor is generally worn under the uniform shirt or underneath plain clothes.

Concealable armor consists of a carrier assembly and removable ballistic-resistant panels.

The ballistic resistant panels consist of high performance materials woven and engineered to be soft or semi-rigid in order to provide freedom of movement. Soft armor carriers may also include pouches for inserting supplemental armor panels, known as “trauma packs”. MSA offers both hard and soft trauma packs in order to meet customer requirements. There is currently no specific NIJ (National Institute of Justice) certification on trauma packs.

⚠ WARNING

Hard armor trauma packs may cause ricochet of an ballistic threat placing the user at risk.

The use of a trauma pack insert does not change the NIJ approval level or ballistic rating of the vest. Thus far, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has not conducted research to determine the effectiveness of such inserts. In general, NIJ believes that agencies should select armor that provides the rated level of protection over the entire area of coverage, not just isolated areas.

Do not store anything other than a trauma pack in the trauma pocket.

Tactical Armor

Tactical armor includes armor that is generally worn externally (over the uniform or duty gear). It can include both removable and non removable soft armor panels inside of a heavier duty garment. The tactical armor may also include pockets for inserting removable rigid or semi – rigid rifle plates. In addition, many tactical vests may have permanent or removable pouches for carrying supplies, ammunition, or other gear that is used in tactical situations.

⚠ WARNING

Hard fasteners on the exterior of tactical vests may break off and become projectiles if impacted by a ballistic threat. Ammunition, gas canisters or any other supplies carried on a tactical vest, attached pocket, or integrated pocket may explode, fragment or become detached by a ballistic or other impact.

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Installing Ballistic Panels (models with removable parts)

The vest was delivered with the armor panels installed.

Note: For laundering purposes, the panels must be removed and reinstalled prior to use.

Note: Prior to installing the ballistic panel, it is necessary to identify the strike face and wear face of the armor.

Strike face – The side of the panel that is worn away from the body.

Wear face – The side of the panel that is worn toward the body.

Back Panel

1. Position the body armor panel so the wear face label is positioned on the interior body side of the garment and the strike face is positioned away from the body.



2. Fold the sides toward the center.



3. Hold the bottom of the panel and insert it into the carrier, pushing toward the shoulder.



4. Pull the lower pouch opening over the panel.



5. Ensure the panel is flat and not folded or bunched.
6. Slide hands around the sides to ensure that the panel lies smooth across the bottom of the pouch.
7. Slide hands up to the shoulders to ensure panel reaches the tops of the shoulders and engage an internal hook and loop if the carrier is equipped with it.

Front Panel

1. Turn the armor over and lie it flat. Repeat steps 1-7 in the Back Panel section, ensuring the strike and wear faces are positioned properly.

⚠ WARNING

Ensure the panels are properly inserted into the carrier assembly with the strike face away from the body and the wear face towards the body. The ballistic panels must be installed properly. Improper installation may void the protection. Check the ballistic panel label for indication of wear or strike face.

INSPECTION, CLEANING, AND MAINTENANCE

Before each use, inspect the garment and ballistic panels for wear and damage such as torn threads, cuts, tears, and missing panels. The protective covering of the ballistic panel must be fully intact and free of rips, tears, and damage. Immediately remove from service any vest or ballistic panel that does not comply with the above inspection requirements. Never attempt to repair armor yourself under any circumstances. Replace worn or damaged armor immediately.

CARRIERS

1. Remove the ballistic panels and all trauma plates from the carrier.
2. Close all hook and loop fasteners (Velcro) that are permanently attached to the garment.
3. Remove the hook and loop fasteners that are not permanently attached to the garment.
4. Follow the laundering instructions on the label attached to the carrier with removable panels.

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⚠ WARNING

DO NOT dry clean or bleach the garment. Dry cleaning and bleach can compromise the integrity of the ballistic materials when re-installed and potentially reduce the ballistic performance and can result in serious personal injury or death.

5. Tumble dry the garment according to the instructions on the garment label.

BALLISTIC PANELS

Wipe the panels clean with a damp cloth.

⚠ WARNING

DO NOT use detergents or other cleansers. DO NOT submerge, soak or spray the panels with water. DO NOT machine wash, dry clean, or iron ballistic panels.

Improper cleaning can reduce the protection properties of the panel.

TACTICAL VESTS

Wipe or brush outer carrier with dry cloth or light brush in order to remove dirt or solid matter that may build up on outer vest. Do not wet or use detergents.

⚠ WARNING

DO NOT use detergents or other cleansers. DO NOT submerge, soak or spray the panels with water. DO NOT machine wash, dry clean, or iron ballistic panels.

Improper cleaning can reduce the protection properties of the vest.

STORAGE

Store the garment at room temperature lying flat or on a hanger.

Ensure the garment is dry before storing.

⚠ WARNING

DO NOT store the garment in a vehicle, including the trunk. DO NOT expose the ballistic panels to direct sunlight.

Improper storage can reduce the protection properties of the garment.

WARRANTY

- 1. Express Warranty** - MSA warrants that the product furnished under this order is free from mechanical defects or faulty workmanship for a period as follows, provided it is maintained and used in accordance with MSA's instructions and/or recommendations.
 - Ballistic Panels – Five (5) years from date of manufacture
 - Carrier/Carrier materials – Eighteen (18) months from date of manufactureMSA shall be released from all obligations under this warranty in the event repairs or modifications are made by persons other than its own or authorized service personnel or if the warranty claim results from abuse, misuse, or normal wear and tear of the product. No agent, employee or representative of MSA may bind MSA to any affirmation, representation or modification of the warranty concerning the goods sold under this contract. MSA makes no warranty concerning components or accessories not manufactured by MSA, but will pass on to the Purchaser all warranties of manufacturers of such components. THIS WARRANTY IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, AND IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO THE TERMS HEREOF: MSA SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
- 2. Exclusive Remedy** - It is expressly agreed that the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy for breach of the above warranty, for any tortious conduct of MSA, or for any other cause of action, shall be the repair and/or replacement, at MSA's option, of any equipment or parts thereof, that after examination by MSA are proven to be defective. Replacement equipment and/or parts will be provided at no cost to the purchaser, F.O.B. MSA's plant. Failure of MSA to successfully repair any non-conforming product shall not cause the remedy established hereby to fail of its essential purpose.
- 3. Exclusion of Consequential Damages** - Purchaser specifically understands and agrees that under no circumstances will MSA be liable to Purchaser for economic, special, incidental or consequential damages or losses of any kind whatsoever, including but not limited to, loss of anticipated profits and any other loss caused by reason of the nonoperation of the goods. This exclusion is applicable to claims for breach of warranty, tortious conduct or any other cause of action against MSA.

Warranty Registration

<http://www.msanet.com/registry>