

Body Armour Protective Vests

We offer a range of body armour / protective vests to suit a range of user requirements.

There are three main types of protective vests / body armour available, namely:

- Slash / cut resistant load bearing vests
- Hard shell (moulded polycarbonate) body armour vests
- Soft shell (Kevlar) body armour vests

Each of the above types of vests have certain advantages and disadvantages and it is important you select the type of vest that best reflects the potential risk you are facing.

Slash / cut resistant load bearing vests

These vests feature a slash / cut resistant liner that offers exceptional protection against edged weapons.

As the name suggests these vests are designed to protect the wearer against cutting or slashing type attacks (think a cutting or slashing attack using the edge of a blade rather than a stabbing attack using the point of a blade).

These vests are the lightest of the three types of vests and as such are the most comfortable to wear.

They offer a high level of cut / slash resistance, but no blunt force trauma (being punched, kicked or hit with an object such as a piece of wood), stab or ballistic protection.

These vests are designed to be 'load bearing' which means they feature pouches and pockets to store and carry pieces of equipment such as radios, cameras, notebooks etc.

They are available in either black or Hi-Viz yellow, both of which include reflective strips / tape. The design of the carrier is not customisable.



Black Protective Load Bearing Vest

Hard shell body armour vests

Hard shell vests feature moulded polycarbonate protective panels that form a protective shell around the torso of the wearer.

The protective panels are available in either 3mm or 5mm thickness versions.

These vests offer exceptional protection against edged weapons (cutting, slashing and stabbing) but where they really come into their own is in terms of the blunt force trauma protection they offer.

With soft shell vests, if the wearer suffers a blunt force attack such as being struck with a piece of wood, the shock wave from the strike travels through the vest (which absorbs some of the energy) and into the wearers body. This is called fluid shock transfer.

With a hard shell vest, the impact of the strike is spread across the surface of the protective panel of the vest meaning there is far less fluid shock transfer into the body of the wearer.

The 5mm version is certified to KR1 (knife resistant level 1) protection level which is an international standard.

While the 3mm version still offers very good edged weapon and blunt force trauma protection, it does not meet the KR1 standard.

We recommend that the 3mm version is only used for covert vests where the thinner panels are more discrete / less visible. As such, the 3mm vests are ideal for door security staff.

Where the vests are being worn overtly (in an external carrier / cover) we recommend the 5mm version is used for the additional protection they offer and the fact they met an international safety standard.

Another advantage hard shell vests offer is around their ability to protect against needles. Needles are one of the most difficult threats to defeat because the point of the needle can work its way



Hard Shell SRBA Vest



Moulded Polycarbonate Panels

through the weave of the protective material (Kevlar) in soft shell vests and ultimately penetrate into the wearers body. Hard shell protective panels do not allow this to happen.

Hard shell vests can be worn either covertly or overtly with a range of carriers available including:

- Standard covert
- Standard front zip overt vest (customizable design for colours, reflective strips, pockets, pouches and attachments etc)
- Tabard overt (a 'non-confrontational' design that gives the appearance the wearer is wearing a normal safety vest rather than body armour)



Custom Overt



Tabard Overt



Standard Covert



Standard Overt

Hard shell protective panels have a much longer operational life than soft shell panels. Because soft shell panels are made from material such as Kevlar, the fibres within the panels breakdown over time, especially in areas where the panels bend or fold. Because hard shell panels are constructed from polycarbonate, they do not breakdown in the same way meaning they have a much longer operational life.

Due to the rigid nature of the panels, hard shell vests may not feel as comfortable to wear as soft shell vests due to the inability of the polycarbonate panels to mould / bend in the way in which soft shell panels do. This is especially true if wearers are required to bend over, sit down / get up / drive in a motor vehicle etc.



Hard shell vest with protective panels

This tends to be more pronounced/ noticeable for larger framed wearers.

Hard shell moulded polycarbonate panels do not offer ballistic protection.

Hard shell vests are available in standard sizes from XS to 6XL. Made to measure vests are also available.

Carriers are customisable in terms of pockets, attachments, reflective tape and patches etc.

Soft shell body armour vests

Soft shell vests feature protective panels made of tightly woven material such as Kevlar. These vests are available in a range of protection levels for both edged and ballistic weapons.

Obviously the higher the level of protection, the thicker and heavier the protective panels.

In terms of ballistic protection, soft shell vests are designed to offer protection primarily against rimfire, handgun and some shotgun rounds.

They do not offer protection against centre fire rifle rounds unless combined with Hard Armour Plates (HAP's) which are ceramic, steel or composite plates (approximately 30cm x 20cm) that are worn in conjunction with the soft shell vests.



Soft shell front zip over

While soft shell vests do not offer the same level of blunt force trauma protection as hard shell vests, they do feature a liner that offers some protection against such attacks. Obviously the thicker the soft shell panel, (for higher ballistic / stab protection) the more blunt force trauma protection they offer.

Soft shell vests are generally more comfortable to wear than hard shell vests, especially if the wearers role includes activities such as sitting and driving etc.

Soft shell vests can be worn either covertly or overtly with a range of carriers available including:

- Standard covert
- T/shirt carrier covert
- Front zip over vest (customizable design for colours, reflective strips, pockets, pouches and attachments)
- Overt bib (with HAP pouches front and rear)



T/shirt covert



Standard covert



Front zip over



Tactical overt

Soft shell vests are available in standard sizes from XS to 6XL. Made to measure vests are also available.

Carriers are customisable in terms of pockets, attachments, reflective tape and patches etc.

Summary

Body armour protective vests offer wearers protection against a range of threats. Due to the range of vest options available we work with clients to ensure they get the most appropriate vest based on the operational environment they are working in / most likely threats they will face.

We will supply measurement and sizing sheets to ensure the right fit which is crucial for maximum protection and comfort.

Contact us to discuss your requirements and allow us to work with you to ensure you get the best vest for your needs.

