FEMA

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

SAVER

System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program to assist emergency responders making procurement decisions. The SAVER Program conducts unbiased operational tests on commercial equipment and systems and provides those results along with other relevant equipment information to the emergency response community in an operationally useful form. SAVER provides information on equipment that falls within the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL). The SAVER Program mission includes:

- Conducting impartial, practitioner relevant, and operationally oriented assessments and validations of emergency responder equipment;
- Providing information that enables decision makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency responder equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the responder community, providing a life-saving and cost-saving asset to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as well as to federal, state, and local responders.

The SAVER Program is supported by a network of technical agents who perform assessment and validation activities. Further, SAVER focuses primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office
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https://saver.fema.gov

IEEE Standards: American National Standard for Evaluation and Performance of Radiation Detection Portal Monitors for Use in Homeland Security (ANSI N42.35-2004)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (OSLGCP) has recognized that the emergency responder, under certain conditions, may be in need of instruments that detect radioactive materials that could be used for nuclear weapons or radiological dispersal devices.

OSLGCP further recognizes that where there is a need for a device there is also a need for testing for accuracy. The *American National Standard for Evaluation and Performance of Radiation Detection Portal Monitors for Use in Homeland Security*, published by The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), provides the testing and evaluating criteria for radiation detection portal monitors. These monitors may be used in permanent installations, in temporary installations for short-duration detection needs, or as a transportable system.

The equipment addressed by this standard is a "warning assembly designed to detect radiation from gamma and/or neutron emitters contained in objects, containers, or vehicles, or carried by a pedestrian, that activates an alarm when the signal from the detection system exceeds an alarm threshold. Measurement occurs when the object passes through the detection zone (dynamic mode) or is placed for some period of time within the detection zone (static mode)."

This standard utilized some of the following types of detectors: cesium iodide (CsI) scintillation detectors; sodium iodide (NaI) scintillation detectors; CZT semiconductor detectors; germanium gamma-ray detectors; semiconductor charged-particle detectors; Geiger-Mueller counters; ionization chambers; plastic scintillator detectors; high-pressure 3He proportional counters.

A copy of the standard can be obtained at the following address: http://standards.ieee.org/getN42.

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