



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY



EQUIPMENT GUIDANCE
(Revised September 1, 2006)

This guidance applies to the following federal grant programs:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)
- Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP)
- Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
- Citizen Corps Program (CCP)
- Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)
- Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)

Allowable equipment categories for the above referenced programs are listed on the web-based Authorized Equipment List (AEL) on the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB), which is sponsored by the federal Department of Homeland Security, Office of Grants and Training (DHS-OGT). The 2006 AEL may be found at www.rkb.mipt.org and consists of more than 500 items. Once you reach the RKB home page, click on "Log in as Guest." When you reach the next page, click on the second item under "Most Popular" – DHS-AEL." This will bring you to the 2006 Authorized Equipment List.

As in previous years, the AEL is arranged into 21 broad categories of equipment types. Click on the desired category and a drop-down list will appear with the various equipment items allowed in that category. Click on the particular item you are interested in and it will display the grant programs that may be used to purchase the item, as well as any restrictions or requirements that must be met. As stated previously, the AEL now serves nine different grant programs, so make sure the item you plan to purchase is eligible under the program you are using. For example, if you wished to purchase a Chemical Leak Detector with LETPP funds (AEL item 7.2.2.5), you will see that this item is not an allowable purchase under that program.

Please note that some items listed on the AEL must meet certain standards in order to be purchased with grant funds. For example, SCBA (AEL item 1.1.1.1) must meet be CBRN compliant to meet current NIOSH standards. On the right side of the SCBA page is a block titled "Knowledge Links." The block contains a list of 12 air packs that currently meet the certification and are allowed to be purchased.

For Fiscal Year 2006, federal grant funds will be issued using a traditional grant model. DEMHS will not be serving as the purchasing agent for municipalities. Municipalities may contact state-contracted vendors to meet their needs. To learn if an item is on state contract, please consult with the DEMHS grant program specialist assigned to your region.

Important Limitations and Prohibitions

- **Note: Only pre-existing Bomb Squads (Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, and CSP ESU) are allowed to purchase items in Category 2 (“Explosive Device Mitigation and Remediation Equipment”).**
- **As in the past, weapons of any kind are not allowed under these grant programs. Any weapons enhancements (i.e. laser sights or specialized slings/grips) are also prohibited.**
- **Only the Regional Haz-Mat Teams are allowed to buy certain Level A PPE and meters, above what is issued in the basic metering package.**
- **Supplanting prohibition: There are several things to keep in mind – grant funds cannot be used to purchase items that have been previously included in the municipal budget. For example, a town may allocate funds in its 2006 budget for the replacement of self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA) for the Fire Service. These are an allowable expense under the grant program. However, as the town has already budgeted for this item, it now cannot use grant funds to make this purchase. Please see another example sited below regarding vehicle usage.**
- **When an item is purchased that requires a service fee, (i.e. a satellite phone), grant funds can only pay for the service during the grant performance period, which is approximately one year.**
- **General-use computers are not allowed under any of the aforementioned grant programs. They must be part of an integrated system for communications, GIS, logistical support, etc.**

Notable Additions/Changes to Authorized Equipment

1. Body Armor – Type III ballistic armor is allowed to be purchased for existing SWAT Teams only. Patrol Body Armor worn under the uniform is not allowed.
2. Fixed Generators – (AEL item 10.2.1) Grant funds may be used to purchase the generator and pay for installation. Installation expenses are only allowed up to the Transfer Switch. Any costs in wiring beyond the switch are not allowable. Removal of the old equipment is not an allowable expense.
3. The cost of running additional phone lines into new or existing Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) is allowable.
4. Plasma Screens are allowed in dispatch centers and EOCs to display vehicle locations or GIS information.
5. Radio Consoles – Work stations for dispatch centers are allowable.
6. Other items not on the AEL are reviewed on a case by case basis by DHS-OGT for possible inclusion.
7. Vehicle Usage – Vehicles purchased with grant funds from category 12 (“CBRNE Incident Response Vehicles”) are limited to CBRNE responses only. DHS-OGT has allowed for some

additional uses, such as a Haz-Mat vehicle responding to a routine Haz-Mat call, or a tow vehicle pulling a department's boat trailer for a water rescue. The vehicle cannot be assigned to one person or group for their exclusive use. For example, the chief cannot assign a vehicle to himself as his response vehicle, nor could the vehicle be assigned to the on-duty battalion chief as his response vehicle. Both of these are examples of "supplanting" which is prohibited under the grant. Vehicles assigned to these individuals are normally-budgeted municipal expenses and, therefore, cannot be grant funded.

8. Accountability Systems -- The State is in the process of acquiring the Salamander Accountability System for the Regional Haz-Mat Teams. The Connecticut Department of Public Health and a number of local departments have also purchased this system. In order to assure interoperability at a large disaster scene, this is the only system that can be purchased with grant funds. You may view the available systems at www.salamandertechnologies.com. There are several levels of the system available from command tag boards up to a fully-automated system. All the systems are upwardly compatible.

Emergency Notification Systems – The contract for the Emergency Notification System (ENS) will be issued by the Connecticut Department of Information Technology (DOIT) in the near future. For those municipalities considering purchasing such a system, the guidance below details the allowable uses of these systems and DHS-OGT purchasing limitations. **Please note this guidance also applies to jurisdictions that purchased a system through the reimbursement/cash advance route with SHSGP or LETPP funds.**

As you are aware, there are two types of ENS. One is hardware based, where the town purchases all the necessary hardware and the phone database to operate the system on its own. The second is service based, where the town enters into a contract with an off-site service provider who is responsible for placing the emergency notification calls to the specified geographic area.

DHS-OGT has approved both types of systems for purchase with grant funds with the following restrictions:

- Grant funds can only be used to pay for the service-based system for the duration of the grant performance period.
- For the hardware-based system, DHS-OGT prohibits using grant funds to pay for any associated telecommunications fees. This means that while the cost of installing the additional phone lines is allowed under the grant, the monthly charge for maintaining those lines is not. The monthly charge is the responsibility of the jurisdiction.

In order to reduce the cost to towns opting for the hardware system, the State Attorney General was asked for an opinion about the possibility of providing the Enhanced 911 Database to the towns free of charge. This request is pending and we will keep you advised of any future ruling.

It is likely that even if the Attorney General rules that the database can be used, he will attach the restriction that the database be used for **emergency purposes only**. You could not, for example, use the system to announce Town Council meetings or other public service-type announcements. Also, DHS-OGT restricts the use of systems bought with grant funds to **emergency use only**.