Safety Equipment Institute

SEI Certification Program Manual

Section 30: NOCSAE Athletic Equipment Program

NOCSAE Athletic Equipment Standards

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- **ND024-24** Baseball/Softball Catcher's Helmets with Faceguard
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30.1 Preface

This document is intended for use in the certification of products to the NOCSAE performance specifications. Due to specific requirements and nuances of the SEI/NOCSAE certification program, information within this document supersedes certain sections of the nonprogram specific SEI Certification Program Manual sections 1 through 19.

30.2 Certification Submittal Package

The existence of an executed, valid license agreement with NOCSAE is prerequisite to SEI issuing certification. A Certification Submittal Package shall include an SEI NOCSAE Certification Submittal Package (*see Section 30A SEI NOCSAE Submittal Package*) for each product model, variant or accessory being submitted. Completion of the submittal package serves four primary purposes:

1. The submittal package provides SEI and the SEI Quality Assurance Auditor with a description of new, modified or existing products to be selected for annual certification.

2. The information provided by the manufacturer in the submittal package confirms to SEI the product design and components.

3. Receipt of the submittal package by the testing laboratory, from SEI, serves as the laboratory's authorization to begin testing the product(s) and allows laboratory personnel to verify that the correct product samples have been received.

4. The return of a signed copy of the submittal form from the testing laboratory provides SEI with a record of the date testing was completed on the product model.

Over the life of the product, subsequent submittal packages shall document that the product model submitted for certification testing is identical to samples **previously** tested, except where Class I model changes have been tested and documented through the submission of additional SEI submittal packages or documented Class II changes have been made. It is therefore necessary that each submittal to SEI include sufficient product description information, which is achieved by a complete components and materials listing to uniquely and unambiguously identify the product model in question (see Section 14: Product Changes).

<u>SEI Certification Submittal Package</u>

Each submittal must be identified on the submittal package as either (1) initial certification, (2) annual certification, (3) Class I change, or (4) Class II change. Finished product manufacturing facilities (assembly) located at a different address (i.e. suppliers or company-owned factories) shall be identified. The SEI Certification Submittal Packages shall be signed by the authorized manufacturer representative within the participating company having the authority to authorize expenditures for testing.

<u>Components & Materials Description List</u>

The product description information may be (a) listed on the Component and Materials tab of the submittal package, provided as a separate listing by the manufacturer (i.e. Bill of Materials), or (b) appropriate engineering drawings/ specification sheets. The following information is to be included on each Components & Materials Description. Brief examples are provided for guidance.

A. Description of Major Components

All major components and materials shall be identified and described. Where possible, include brand name and part number, supplier name and location.

B. Primary Materials

Materials used in the construction of major components shall be identified. Identification shall include trade names, if applicable. All changes shall be reported to SEI for evaluation and possible action.

C. Manufacturing Locations

All locations in which the product model is manufactured or assembled must be identified on the SEI Certification Submittal Form. If major components are manufactured by another company and purchased by the SEI participants, the name and address of the manufacturing facility and contact name shall be identified on the Components & Materials Description Checklist.

D. Specification Sheets or Technical Bills of Materials

Product specification sheets or technical bills of materials (BOM) may be included with the SEI Certification Submittal Form in addition to the Components & Materials description checklist to fulfill some or all other requirements noted above. In the case of annual recertification, the appropriate documents (i.e., submittal form and components and materials listing or BOM) shall be prepared prior to the sample selection audit and available to the auditor during the audit for reference and confirmation of product.

E. Confidentiality

All product information received by SEI staff, the SEI Quality Assurance Auditor, or the SEI testing laboratory shall be considered confidential and shall not be released to any third party without written authorization to do so (with the exceptions noted in *Section 30F: SEI Manufacturer's Agreement: NOCSAE Athletic Equipment Certification Program* for response to a subpoena, court order or other compulsory process).

30.3 NOCSAE Athletic Equipment Program Codes

SEI utilizes SEI Reference Numbers internally to identify each SEI participant and their unique models and variants. The first set of three letters indicates which standard the model/variant is being certified to. The second set of three letters indicates the SEI participant's identification. The numbers are used chronologically to indicate each model being certified.

eg: BBH ABC 01 (ABC = Participant name)

SEI Reference Program Code	Standard Description	Product Type	Standard
BBH	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Batter's Helmets	NOCSAE: Baseball/Softball Batter's Helmets	ND022
BCH	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Catcher's Helmets with Faceguards	NOCSAE: Baseball/Softball Catcher's Helmets with Faceguard	ND024
BSB	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseballs	NOCSAE: Baseballs	ND027
BFH	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Fielder's Headgear	NOCSAE: Baseball/Softball Fielder's Headgear	ND029
BFG	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Batter's Helmet Mounted Face Protector	NOCSAE: Baseball/Softball Batter's Helmet Mounted Face Protector	ND072
FH	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Football Helmets	NOCSAE: Football Helmet	ND002
FHY	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Youth Football Helmets	NOCSAE: Youth Football Helmet	ND006
FBG	Standard Test Method and Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Football Players Hand Coverings	NOCSAE: Football Players Hand Coverings	ND019
FFM	Standard Method of Impact Test and Performance Requirements for Football Faceguards	NOCSAE: Football Faceguards (Masks)	ND087
HH	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Hockey Helmets	NOCSAE: Hockey Helmets	ND030

SEI Reference Program Code	Standard Description	Product Type	Standard
HFG	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Hockey Face Protectors	NOCSAE: Hockey Face Protectors	ND035
LXH	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Lacrosse Helmets with Faceguard	NOCSAE: Lacrosse Helmets with Faceguards	ND041
LXG	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Lacrosse Face Protectors	NOCSAE: Lacrosse Face Protectors	ND045
LXB	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Lacrosse Balls	NOCSAE: Lacrosse Balls	ND049
PH	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Polo Helmets	NOCSAE: Polo Helmets	ND050
PEP	Standard Performance Specification for Helmet Mounted Polo Eye Protection	NOCSAE: Polo Helmet with Mounted Eye Protection	ND055
SG	Standard Test Method and Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Soccer Shin Guards	NOCSAE: Soccer Shin Guards	ND090
FHH	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Field Hockey Headgear	NOCSAE: Field Hockey Headgear	ND061
FHB	Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Field Hockey Balls	NOCSAE: Field Hockey Balls	ND069
HDW	Standard Test Method and Specification Used in Evaluating the Corrosion Characteristics and Effects on Metallic Hardware Disassembly	NOCSAE: Hardware Corrosion Characteristics	ND015
CPB / CPL	Standard Test Method and Performance Specification Used in Evaluating the Performance Characteristics of Chest Protectors for Commotio Cordis	NOCSAE: Chest Protectors for Commotio Cordis	ND200

30.4 Definition of a "Model" per SEI

"Model" is the collective term used to identify a group of protective devices of the same basic design and components from a single applicant produced by the same manufacturing and quality assurance procedures that are covered by the same certification. Any characteristic that affects the device's performance under the limits of the current certification standards constitutes a different model. For purposes of the SEI Certification Program, the above definition of the term "model" uses performance characteristics as the basic criteria.

30.5 NOCSAE Athletic Helmets with or without Faceguards

A. Definition of Model
   1. Characteristics that have the potential to affect the model's ability to meet the performance requirement of a certification standard and therefore require a new model designation:
      a. Basic raw material of:
         1. Shell
         2. Padding or energy absorbing system
         3. Chin strap or neck strap, if applicable
         4. Face protector or faceguard, if applicable
         5. Visor, if applicable
      b. Mechanism for attaching accessories to the shell, If applicable
      c. Manufacturing change for any critical component (e.g.: manufacturing technique, material, supplier location)
      d. Basic design
      e. Size
      f. Labels and Markings
   2. Characteristics that are unlikely to affect the model's ability to meet the performance requirement of a certification standard and therefore would not require a new model designation:
      a. Paint and/or graphics
      b. Comfort/Fit padding

B. Examples of Major Components
   1. Shell
   2. Padding or energy absorbing system
   3. Chin strap or neck strap, if applicable
   4. Face protector or faceguard, if applicable
   5. Labels and Markings

C. Applicable standards: NOCSAE ND 002, ND006, ND 022, ND 024, ND 029, ND 030, ND 041, ND 050, ND 061

30.6 NOCSAE Faceguards and Eye Protection

A. Definition of Model
   1. Characteristics that have the potential to affect a model's ability to meet the performance requirement of a certification standard and therefore require a new model designation:
      a. Basic raw material of:
         1. Face protector, Faceguard, or Eye Protector
         2. Chin strap or neck strap, if applicable
      b. Mechanism for attaching guard/protector to the shell (i.e.: component parts)
      c. Manufacturing change for any critical component (e.g.: manufacturing technique, material, supplier location)
      d. Basic design
      e. Size
      f. Labels and Markings
   2. Characteristics that are unlikely to affect a model's ability to meet the performance requirement of a certification standard and therefore would not require a new model designation:
      a. Paint and/or graphics

B. Examples of Major Components
   1. Face protector, faceguard, eye protector
   2. Padding or energy absorbing system, if applicable
   3. Chin strap or neck strap, if applicable
   4. Labels and Markings

C. Applicable standards: NOCSAE ND 035, ND 045, ND 055, ND 072, ND 087

30.7 NOCSAE Football Players Hand Coverings

A. Definition of Model
   1. Characteristics that have the potential to affect a model's ability to meet the performance requirement of a certification standard and therefore require a new model designation:
      a. Glove (or Hand Pad) material, composition and/or thickness that will affect substrate performance (Note: ND019 defines a hand pad as a covering for the hand that does not have full coverage of the hand.)
      b. Palm material
      c. Basic design
      d. Seam construction technique or design
      e. Webbing
      f. Labels and Markings

2. Characteristics that are unlikely to affect a model's ability to meet the performance requirement of a certification standard and therefore would not require a new model designation:
   a. Basic design alterations not affecting glove circumference and length
   b. Color changes that do not result in an effect on substrate performance

B. Examples of Major Components
   1. Outer glove material
   2. Glove Palm material
   3. Labels and Markings

C. Applicable standards: NOCSAE ND 019

30.8 NOCSAE Soccer Shin Guards

A. Definition of Model
   1. Characteristics that have the potential to affect a model's ability to meet the performance requirement of a certification standard and therefore require a new model designation:
      a. Primary protective component (component of guard that provides impact protection) of the shin guard material composition and/or thickness
      b. Padding materials
      c. Retention materials
      d. Manufacturing change for any critical component (e.g.: manufacturing technique, material, supplier location)
      e. Basic design
      f. Shin Guard sizing where it could affect extent of protective coverage
      g. Labels and Markings

   2. Characteristics that are unlikely to affect a model's ability to meet the performance requirement of a certification standard and therefore would not require a new model designation:
      a. Basic design alterations not affecting shin guard extent of protective coverage
      b. Color changes that do not affect shin guard primary protective component performance

B. Examples of Major Components
   1. Primary protective shin guard component material (component of guard that provides impact protection)
   2. Shin guard padding material
   3. Retention System
   4. Labels and Markings

C. Applicable standards: NOCSAE ND 090

30.9 NOCSAE Athletic Balls

A. Definition of Model
   1. Characteristics that have the potential to affect a model's ability to meet the performance requirement of a certification standard and therefore require a new model designation:
      a. Ball material(s) and composition (e.q.: chemical makeup, outer covering, inner core)
      b. Manufacturing change for any critical component (e.g.: manufacturing technique, material, supplier location)
      c. Basic design
      d. Labels and Markings

   2. Characteristics that are unlikely to affect a model's ability to meet the performance requirement of a certification standard and therefore would not require a new model designation:
      a. Basic design alterations not affecting ball's performance requirements
      b. Color changes that do not affect performance requirements

B. Examples of Major Components
   1. Outer covering material
   2. Inner core material
   3. Labels and Markings

C. Applicable standards: NOCSAE ND 027, ND 049, ND 069

30.10 NOCSAE Chest Protectors for Commotio Cordis

A. Definition of Model
   1. Characteristics that have the potential to affect a model's ability to meet the performance requirements of the certification standard and therefore require a new model designation:
      a. Change in energy managing materials or dimensions
      b. Manufacturing change for any critical component (e.g.: manufacturing technique, material, supplier location)
      c. Labels and markings
   2. Characteristics that are unlikely to affect a model's ability to meet the performance requirements of the certification standard and therefore would not require a new model designation:
      a. Change to outer fabric that does not provide protection.

B. Examples of Major Components
   1. Materials utilized in the primary protective component.
   2. Labels and markings

C. Applicable standards: NOCSAE ND 200

30.11 Helmet Hardware

A. Definition of Model
   1. Characteristics that have the potential to affect an assembly's ability to meet the performance requirements of the certification standard:
      a. Change in Supplier
      b. Addition or Subtraction of components
      c. Change in material
      d. Assembly technique

   2. Characteristics that are unlikely to affect a model's ability to meet the performance requirements of the certification standard and therefore would not require a new model designation:
      a. Non-metallic hardware
      b. Addition of new helmets/facemasks the hardware will be used on.

B. Examples of Major Components
   1. Screws
   2. Nuts/T-Nuts
   3. Washers

C. Applicable standard: NOCSAE ND 015

30.12 Sampling requirements and Reduced Sampling for Certification Testing

A. Samples submitted for annual certification must be randomly selected from production lots that are intended for sale.

B. Samples shall be submitted from the most recent production lots.

C. When a product has not been produced since the previous year's annual certification assessment, testing is not required until production occurs again.
   1. When production resumes SEI shall be notified by submission for certification testing.

D. Reduced Sampling
   1. Products that are being submitted for annual certification testing may be eligible for a reduced sampling as defined below.
      a. Products being submitted for Initial, Class I, or Standard Revision certification assessments are not eligible for reduced sampling.
      2. Products that received a marginal results letter with the previous submission are not eligible for reduced sampling.

E. Critical Sizes as defined in NOCSAE Doc ND001-17m24 section 3.12.2
   1. The thinnest padding configuration for a particular helmet shell on the largest headform designated for the selling size range for that particular shell.

F. Prescribed Sampling
   1. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 002-17 - Newly Manufactured Football Helmets
      a. Standard Specification: At least four (4) of each model and size must be tested.
      b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
         1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision: At minimum, four of each model and size must be tested on each headform they are intended to fit.
         2. Annual Submissions: At minimum, four of each model and size must be tested on the largest headform they are intended to fit.

   2. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 015-15 - Corrosion Characteristics and Effects on Metallic Hardware Disassembly
      a. Standard Specification: At least twelve (12) sets of hardware must be submitted.
      b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
         1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision, and Annual Submissions: At minimum, twelve sets of hardware must be submitted.

      c. Definition of a Set: All components from a single faceguard/helmet component(s) anchorage point that must be disassembled in the event that emergent access to the wearer's airway is required. This includes pieces of a helmets shell material or a representative blank of a similar material to assemble the anchorage point in an as used configuration.

   3. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 019-10 - Newly Manufactured Football Player Hand Coverings
      a. Standard Specification: At least 5 hand coverings per model must be tested. A minimum of three pairs of the largest size per model must be submitted.
      b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
         1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision, and Annual Submissions: At minimum, five hand coverings in the largest size offered per model must be tested.

4. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 022-21 - Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Batter's Helmets
   a. Standard Specification: At least, three (3) of each helmet model in each of the critical sizes must be tested.
   b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
      1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision Submissions: At minimum, three helmets in each critical size offered by the participant shall be tested on each size headform the helmets fit.
      2. Annual Submissions: At minimum, three helmets in each critical size offered by the participant shall be tested on the largest size headform the helmets fit.

5. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 024-24 - Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Catcher's Helmets with Faceguards
   a. Standard Specification:
      1. For helmets intended for use in both baseball and softball (BB+SB Helmets), at least seven (7) of each helmet model in each of the critical sizes must be tested.
      2. For helmets intended for use in only softball (SB Only), at least five (5) of each helmet model in each of the critical sizes must be tested.

   b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
      1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision submissions:
         a. For helmets intended for use with Baseballs and Softballs: At minimum, seven helmets in each critical size shall be submitted for testing. For helmet projectile impact testing, seven samples shall be submitted for testing on each headform it fits. For drop testing and faceguard projectile impacts, testing shall be performed on only the largest headform the helmet fits.
         b. For helmets intended for use with Softballs only: At minimum, seven helmets in each critical size shall be submitted for testing. For helmet projectile impact testing, five samples shall be submitted for testing on each headform it fits. For drop testing and faceguard projectile impacts, testing shall be performed on only the largest headform the helmet fits.
      2. Annual submissions:
         a. For helmets intended for use with Baseballs and Softballs: At minimum, seven helmets in each critical size offered shall be tested on the largest headform the helmet fits for all projectile and drop testing.
         b. For helmets intended for use with Softballs only: At minimum, five helmets in each critical size offered shall be tested on the largest headform the helmet fits for all projectile and drop testing.

6. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 027-18 - Newly Manufactured Baseballs
   a. Standard Specification: At least one dozen (12) balls of each model must be tested.
   b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
      1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision, and Annual Submissions: At minimum, one dozen (12) balls shall be submitted with product packaging

7. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 029-21 - Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Fielder's Headgear
   a. Standard Specification: At least six (6) of each headgear model in each of the critical sizes must be tested.
   b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
      1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision Submissions: At minimum, six helmets in each critical size offered by the participant shall be tested on each size headform the helmets fit.
      2. Annual Submissions: At minimum, six helmets in each critical size offered by the participant shall be tested on the largest size headform the helmets fit.

8. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 030-11 - Newly Manufactured Hockey Helmets
   a. Standard Specification: At least four (4) of each model in each critical size must be tested.
   b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
      1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision Submissions: At minimum, three helmets in each critical size offered by the participant shall be tested on each size headform the helmets fit.
      2. Annual Submissions: At minimum, three helmets in each critical size offered by the participant shall be tested on the largest size headform the helmets fit.

9. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 035-11 - Newly Manufactured Ice Hockey Face Protectors
   a. Standard Specification: At least five (5) Face Protectors of each model mounted onto helmets that meet the requirements of NOCSAE Doc ND030 and bear the NOCSAE logo, in each critical size must be tested
   b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
      1. For Initial, Class I, Standard Revision, and Annual submissions: At minimum, five face protectors shall be submitted on each helmet the guard is intended to fit, for testing on the largest headform the helmets fit.

10. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 041-15 - Newly Manufactured Lacrosse Helmets with Faceguards
    a. Standard Specification: At least four (4) of each model and in each critical size must be tested.
    b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
        1. Initial, Class I, and Standard Revision submissions: At minimum, four of each size helmet shall be submitted for testing on each headform the helmets fit.
        2. Annual submissions: At minimum, four of each size helmet shall be submitted for testing on the largest headform the helmets fit.

11. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 045-17 - Newly Manufactured Lacrosse Face Protectors
    a. Standard Specification: At least five (5) Face Protectors of each model mounted onto helmets that meet the requirements of NOCSAE DOC 041 and bear the NOCSAE logo, in each critical size must be tested.
    b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
        1. For Initial, Class I, Standard Revision, and Annual submissions: At minimum, five face protectors shall be submitted on each helmet the guard is intended to fit, for testing on the largest headform the helmets fit.

12. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 049-19 - Newly Manufactured Lacrosse Balls
    a. Standard Specification: At least one dozen (12) balls of each model must be tested.
    b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
        1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision Submissions: One dozen (12) balls of each floor of each model shall be submitted.
        2. Annual Submissions: One dozen (12) balls shall be submitted. If the ball comes in multiple colors the dozen shall consist of an even mix of each color
            a. e.g.: 2 colors – 6 balls in each color, 3 colors – 4 balls in each color, 4 colors – 3 balls in each color, etc.

13. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 050-11 - Newly Manufactured Polo Helmets
    a. Standard Specification: At least three (3) of each model in each critical size must be tested.
    b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
        1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision Submissions: At minimum, three helmets in each critical size offered by the participant shall be tested on each size headform the helmets fit.
        2. Annual Submissions: At minimum, three helmets in each critical size offered by the participant shall be tested on the largest size headform the helmets fit.

14. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 055-11 - Helmet Mounted Polo Eye Protection
    a. Standard Specification: At least five (5) eye protectors of each model mounted onto helmets that meet the requirements of NOCSAE DOC. 050 and bear the NOCSAE logo, in each critical size must be tested.
    b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
        1. For Initial, Class I, Standard Revision, and Annual submissions: At minimum, five face protectors shall be submitted on each helmet the guard is intended to fit, for testing on the largest headform the helmets fit.

15. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 061-14 - Newly Manufactured Field Hockey Headgear
    a. Standard Specification: At least five (5) of each headgear model in each of the critical sizes must be tested.
    b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
        1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision Submissions: At minimum, three helmets in each critical size offered by the participant shall be tested on each size headform the helmets fit.
        2. Annual Submissions: At minimum, three helmets in each critical size offered by the participant shall be tested on the largest size headform the helmets fit.

16. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 069-14 - Newly Manufactured Field Hockey Balls
    a. Standard Specification: At least one dozen (12) balls of each model must be tested.
    b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
        1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision, and Annual Submissions: At minimum, one dozen (12) balls shall be submitted with product packaging

17. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 072-21 - Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Batter's Helmet Mounted Face Protector
    a. Standard Specification: At least two (2) sets of each face protector model in each of the sizes must be tested with the appropriate ball. Face protectors shall be mounted to a batter’s helmet that bears the NOCSAE logo and is listed by the protector manufacturer as being compatible with and in a size that is appropriate for the protector
    b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
        1. Face protectors offered in more than one size:
            a. For Initial, Class I, and Standard Revision submissions:
                i. Baseball and Baseball/Softball or Softball only Protectors: At minimum, one set of each size face protector for each stated ball type, shall be tested on each applicable batter’s helmet model and on each size headform the helmet model fits.

b. For Annual submissions:
    i. Baseball and Baseball/Softball Protectors: At minimum, one set of each size face protector will be tested on each applicable batter's helmet model that fits the medium headform with baseballs only.
    ii. Softball Only Protectors: At minimum, one set of each size face protector will be tested on each applicable batter's helmet model that fits the medium headform with softballs only.

2. Face protectors offered in one size and fit more than one size helmet:
    a. For Initial, Class I, and Standard Revision submissions: At minimum, one set of face protectors for each stated ball type shall be tested on a helmet that fits the medium headform. If multiple helmets fit the medium headform the appropriate helmet shall be selected per the NOCSAE definition of a critical size.
    b. For Annual submissions:
        i. Baseball and Baseball/Softball Protectors: At minimum, one set of face protectors shall be tested on a helmet that fits the medium headform. If multiple helmets fit the medium headform the appropriate helmet shall be selected per the NOCSAE definition of a critical size with baseballs only.
        ii. Softball Only Protectors: At minimum, one set of face protectors shall be tested on a helmet that fits the medium headform. If multiple helmets fit the medium headform the appropriate helmet shall be selected per the NOCSAE definition of a critical size with softballs only.

c. Definition of a set: Five (5) protectors mounted on a certified batter's helmet.

18. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 087-24 - Football Faceguards
    a. Standard Specification: At least two (2) sets of each faceguard model in each of the sizes intended to fit the medium headform must be tested. Faceguards shall be mounted to a football helmet that complies with ND002 and is listed by the faceguard's manufacturer as being compatible with and in a size that is appropriate for the protector.
    b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
        1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision, and Annual Submissions: At minimum, seven of the least and seven of the most populated faceguards shall be submitted for testing on the medium headform only.

19. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 090-06 - Newly Manufactured Soccer Shin Guards
    a. Standard Specification: At least three sets of each size of a shin guard model must be tested.
    b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
        1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision, and Annual submissions: At minimum, three pairs of each size soccer shin guard shall be submitted with product packaging.

20. NOCSAE DOC (ND) 200-22 - Protectors for Commotio Cordis (Baseball & Lacrosse)
    a. Standard Specification: A minimum of two samples per model in the smallest size offered for sale in each of the size ranges specified in sections 13.2.1, 13.2.2, and 13.2.3 shall be submitted.
    b. SEI Minimum Sampling:
        1. Initial, Class I, Standard Revision, and Annual submissions: At minimum, two samples of the smallest size for each applicable torso length range specified in ND200-22 sections 13.2.1, 13.2.2, and 13.2.3
            a. If all offered sizes utilize the exact same primary protective component, in materials, dimension, etc., only the smallest size shall be submitted to be impacted per the maximum specified torso length of the largest size offered for sale.

30.13 Product Withdrawals and the NOCSAE Legacy Product List

A. When a product that is certified to a NOCSAE standard is withdrawn it is removed from the Certified Product List and placed on the Legacy Product List. The purpose of the Legacy Product List is to indicate to end users that their product was compliant at the time of withdrawal but is no longer being produced.
    1. To appear on the Legacy Product List the product must be compliant at the time of withdrawal.
    2. SEI may remove a product from the Legacy Product List if the useful life of the product has elapsed as determined by the reported “Last Manufacture Date” on the participant supplied withdrawal form.
        a. If a product is not required to carry a useful life it may remain on the Legacy Product List indefinitely.

30.14 NOCSAE QC/QA Protocols

A. NOCSAE ND001 *Standard Drop Impact Test Method and Equipment for Protective Headgear/Equipment* specifies manufacturers to have a testing program that includes ongoing QC/QA protocols.

NOCSAE ND011 *Manufacturers Procedural Guide for the Control of Quality and Sample Selection for Testing to NOCSAE Standards* provides basic principles and benchmarks that can be used to evaluate QC/QA practices for sampling and product assessment for the purpose of determining compliance to NOCSAE standards.

B. NOCSAE QC/QA Protocols (per ND001)

Level 3 Equipment/Gear: A class of protective equipment/gear for which a functional failure presents a risk of grave and irreversible injury or death. Manufacturers shall demonstrate a process capability of at least three standard deviations in cases where statistical control can be documented and four standard deviations in cases where control either cannot be established or cannot be documented. This requirement can be demonstrated for example with a capability analysis as described in Section 5.3 of NOCSAE DOC ND 011. When manufacturers rely on Acceptance Sampling procedures, an Acceptable Quality Level (AQL) equal to or more demanding than 0.65 shall be used. Individual performance requirements may exempt a particular requirement from Level 3 and assign a lower level of compliance. Any facial contact requirement in the ocular area of the head form shall be considered Level 3. Level 3 protective equipment/gear shall be considered an ISO 17067 Scheme Type 5 certification.

Level 2 Equipment/Gear: A class of protective equipment/gear for which a functional failure presents a risk of serious injury, but not grave and irreversible injury or death. Manufacturers shall demonstrate a process capability of at least 1.5 standard deviations in cases where statistical control can be documented and 2 standard deviations in cases where control either cannot be established or cannot be documented. This requirement can be demonstrated for example with a capability analysis as described in Section 5.3 of NOCSAE DOC ND 011. When manufacturers rely on Acceptance Sampling procedures, an Acceptable Quality Level (AQL) equal to or more demanding than 2.5 shall be used. Individual performance requirements may specify a different level of compliance for specific criteria. Any facial contact requirement NOT in the ocular area of the head form shall be considered Level 2. Level 2 protective equipment/gear shall be considered an ISO 17067 Scheme Type 5 certification.

Level 1 Equipment/Gear: A class of equipment/gear for which safety is not the primary function, and where non-conformance to the applicable standard presents no risk of personal injury. Manufacturers shall demonstrate a process capability of at least 1.5 standard deviations in cases where statistical control can be documented and 2 standard deviations in cases where control either cannot be established or cannot be documented. This requirement can be demonstrated for example with a capability analysis as described in Section 5.3 of NOCSAE DOC ND 011. When manufacturers rely on Acceptance Sampling procedures, an Acceptable Quality Level (AQL) equal to or more demanding than 2.5 shall be used. Individual performance requirements may specify a different level of compliance for specific criteria. Level 1 protective equipment/gear shall be considered an ISO 17067 Scheme Type 2 certification.

NOCSAE QA/QC Protocols

ND002: Football Helmets						
	Labels	**Impact Attenuation**	**Pneumatic Ram**			
Level 3	X	X	**Exempt**			
Level 2		X low level impacts at 300 SI threshold				
ND006: Youth Football Helmets						
	Labels	**Impact Attenuation**	**Pneumatic Ram**			
Level 3	X	X	**Exempt**			
Level 2		X low level impacts at 300 SI threshold				
ND015: Metallic Hardware						
	Corrosion Method 1	**Corrosion Method 2 (Optional)**				
Level 2	X	X				
ND019: Football Hand Coverings						
	Labels	**Hand Covering Peel Adhesion Test**	**Hand Covering with Add-On Peel Adhesion Test (OPTIONAL)**	**Hand Covering Friction Test**	**Hand Covering with Add-On Friction Test (OPTIONAL)**	
Level 1	X	X	X	X	X	
ND022: Baseball / Softball Batter's Helmets						
	Labels	**Impact Attenuation (Baseballs)**	**Impact Attenuation (Softballs)**			
Level 3	X	X	X			
ND024: Baseball / Softball Catcher's Helmets with Faceguard						
	Labels	**Impact Attenuation Tests - Drop Test**	**Softball Projectile Impact Tests**	**Baseball Projectile Impact Tests**	**Faceguard Softball Projectile Impact Tests**	**Faceguard Baseball Projectile Impact Tests**
Level 3	X	X	X	X	X ocular areas	X ocular areas
Level 2					X non ocular areas and mechanical failure	X non ocular areas and mechanical failure

ND027: Youth Baseballs						
	Labels	**Ball Mass**	**Ball Circumference**	**Ball Compression**	**Ball COR**	
Level 1	X	X	X	X	X	
ND029: Baseball / Softball Fielder's Headgear						
	Labels	**Impact Attenuation - Headgear (Baseball)**	**Impact Attenuation - Headgear (Softball)**	**Face Protector Impact (Baseball)**	**Face Protector Impact (Softball)**	
Level 3	X	X	X	X ocular areas	X ocular areas	
Level 2				X non ocular areas and mechanical failure	X non ocular areas and mechanical	
ND030: Hockey Helmets						
	Labels	**Retention Testing**	**Helmet Stability Testing**	**Impact Attenuation - Helmet Drop Tests**	**Impact Attenuation - Helmet Projectile Tests**	
Level 3	X	X	X	X	X	
Level 2				X Low Level Impacts at 300 SI Threshold		
ND035: Hockey Face Protectors						
	Labels	**Faceguard Projectile Test**	**Faceguard Penetration Test**			
Level 3	X	X ocular areas	X ocular areas			
Level 2		X non ocular areas and mechanical failure	X non ocular areas and mechanical failure			
ND041: Lacrosse Helmets with Faceguards						
	Labels	**Helmet Stability / Retention Testing (Chin cup)**	**Impact Attenuation Drop Test**			
Level 3	X	X	X			
Level 2			X low level impacts at 300 SI threshold			

ND045: Lacrosse Face Protectors						
	Labels	**Faceguards Projectile Tests**	**Faceguard Penetration Test**			
Level 3	X	X ocular areas	X ocular areas			
Level 2		X non-ocular areas and mechanical failure	X non-ocular areas and mechanical failure			
ND049: Lacrosse Balls						
	Labels	**Ball Mass**	**Ball Circumference**	**Ball Compression**	**Ball COR**	
Level 2	X	X	X	X	X	
ND050: Polo Helmets						
	Labels	**Retention Testing (Neck Strap)**	**Helmet Stability Testing**	**Impact Attenuation Tests**		
Level 3	X	X	X	X		
Level 2				X low level impacts at 300 SI threshold		
ND055: Helmet Mounted Polo Eye Protection						
	Labels	**Eye Protector Impact Testing**				
Level 3	X	X ocular areas				
Level 2		X non ocular areas and mechanical failure				
ND061: Field Hockey Headgear						
	Labels	**Impact Attenuation**	**Faceguard Projectile Tests**			
Level 3	X	X	X ocular areas			
Level 2			X non ocular areas			
ND069: Field Hockey Balls						
	Labels	**Ball Mass**	**Ball Circumference**	**Ball Compression**	**Ball COR**	
Level 3	X	X	X	X	X	

ND072: Baseball / Softball Batter's Helmet Mounted Face Protector					
	Labels	**Impact Attenuation (baseball)**	**Impact Attenuation (softball)**		
Level 3	X	X ocular areas	X ocular areas		
Level 2		X non ocular areas and mechanical failure	X non ocular areas and mechanical failure		
ND087: Football Faceguards					
	Labels	**Impact Attenuation**	**Standoff Measurements**	**Rigid Mount Deformation Test (Optional)**	
Level 3	X	X ocular areas	X	X	
Level 2		X non ocular areas and mechanical failure			
ND090: Soccer Shin Guards					
	Labels	**Extent of Protective Coverage**	**Impact Test Method**	**Retention Test**	
Level 2	X	X	X	X	
ND200: Chest Protectors for Commotio Cordis					
	Labels	**Impact Attenuation**			
Level 2	X	X			

30.15 Audit Procedures

A. Quality Audit Procedures

The quality audit procedures are applicable to conducting Quality Audits of a Quality Management System performed by an SEI Quality Auditor in accordance with the requirements of the SEI Certification Program (*see CPM Section 11 Quality Assurance and CPM Section 12 Audit Procedures*), that include initial total system audits and on-site and remote surveillance audits. The Audit Checklist (*see CPM Section 13B NOCSAE Audit Checklist*) shall be used for the initial total system audit and any annual on-site surveillance audit. The NOCSAE Headquarters Remote Audit Checklist (*See Section 30C NOCSAE Athletic Equipment Headquarters Remote Audit Checklist*) shall be used for annual remote surveillance audits where approved. For a new Participant using an existing supplier, where an onsite audit has been conducted within the last year, the NOCSAE Supplier Remote Audit Checklist (*See Section 30D NOCSAE Athletic Equipment Supplier Remote Audit Checklist*) shall be used.

B. Pre-Approval of QC/QA Protocol

The SEI participant shall submit their initial QC/QA Protocol/Plan for each product model type being submitted for review and approval prior to any initial audits being conducted at the headquarters and manufacturing location(s). SEI will review the QC/QA Protocol, using the QC/QA Protocol Review Checklist (*see Section 30E QC/QA Protocol Checklist*), to determine if the plan meets the NOCSAE QC/QA requirements as specified in NOCSAE ND 001 *Standard Drop Impact Test Method and Equipment for Protective Headgear/Equipment* and NOCSAE ND 011 *Manufacturers Procedural Guide for the Control of Quality and Sample Selection for Testing to NOCSAE Standards*. A fee will be associated with this pre-approval process, see Section 30.10 E: Quality Audit Fees below.

Revised QC/QA Protocol/Plan(s) shall be submitted to SEI for approval. Fees may be incurred if excess hours are needed for the review.

SEI's auditor may reassess the QC/QA Protocol/Plan(s) during each audit. Under the SEI Certification Program, the participant retains complete control over the quality and integrity of its products, which includes administering a QC/QA protocol.

C. SEI NOCSAE Quality Audit Procedures

NOCSAE standards address the frequency of onsite and remote audits for QC/QA Equipment/Gear Level 1, 2 and Level 3 categorized products.

Participants whose products fall into Equipment/Gear Level 1, shall undergo a remote audit upon initial participation in the certification program and annually thereafter. However, an onsite surveillance audit may be conducted in the event the remote audit is unsatisfactory or there are multiple testing non-compliances during annual certification testing.

Participants with products designated as Levels 2 and 3 shall be subjected to an initial onsite quality audit. Upon certification, annual surveillance audits shall be required with an onsite audit at least every three years. Audits in years two and three following an onsite audit may be accomplished by remote surveillance audits if all of the following is true:

1. There were no NOCSAE critical noncompliances during certification testing.
2. There were no major noncompliances during an onsite and/or remote audit.
3. There were no new Equipment/Gear Levels 2 and/or 3 products submitted for certification to a standard that was not covered during the onsite quality audit. (e.g. An onsite audit would be required if the initial and annual audits only covered football helmets and subsequently a manufacturer submitted baseball helmets for certification)
4. The product/equipment being certified has at least three years of QA/QC data available for review through an annual remote audit.

If any of the above criteria are not met, remote surveillance audits shall not be permitted.

D. Remote Quality Audit Procedures

The Remote Audit will take place off-site and will require participants to submit their Quality Manual, QC/QA Protocol/Plans and any supporting documentation to the SEI auditor. It is possible the SEI auditor may need to request additional supporting documentation in order to adequately perform the Remote Audit. The SEI Auditors will be using the SEI Remote Audit Checklist (*See Section 30C NOCSAE Athletic Equipment Remote Audit Checklist or See Section 30D NOCSAE Athletic Equipment Supplier Remote Audit Checklist*) to conduct the document review. At the conclusion of the review, the SEI auditor will provide SEI and the participant with an audit report.

30.16 Certification Testing

A. Sample Retention Policy

The testing laboratories shall maintain a sample retention policy. At a minimum, the sample retention policy shall include wording that requires the lab to keep at least one sample of each model tested for initial, class I or annual certification until the next testing cycle.

B. Annual Certification Testing

Upon completion of initial testing, certification testing shall be conducted on an annual basis. NOCSAE product models shall be tested annually if there has been production of that product model since it's last certification date and the product model inventory has been in the participant's control. Product model inventory that is maintained at a contract manufacturing location is not considered to be in the participant's control.

30.17 Certification Fees

Testing shall be performed annually. When an initial submittal package is submitted to SEI, the Application Fees and Annual Participation Fees are due. Upon completion of initial testing, Annual Model Certification Fees are due. The following is a schedule of application fees & annual model certification fees that apply to the NOCSAE Program:

Model Type	Submittal Type	Application Fee	Certification Fees
Base Model	Initial	$296	$353
	Class I Change	$56	N/A
	Class II Change	$56	N/A
Variant Model	Initial	$148	$147
	Class I Change	$56	N/A
	Class II Change	$56	N/A
Accessory Model*	Initial	$148	$147
	Class I Change	$56	N/A
	Class II Change	$56	N/A

**For the NOCSAE program face protectors, faceguards, eye protection, and hardware will be considered accessory models.*

30.18 Laboratory Testing Fees/ Attributes & Variables

SEI currently has approved four (4) laboratories that may conduct testing to the NOCSAE athletic equipment standards. The schedule of rates are as quoted by the testing laboratory.

A) Laboratories Testing Fee Increases/Modifications

Laboratories will be provided with the opportunity to increase or modify their NOCSAE testing fees once per year. Around October 1st of each year laboratories will be contacted by SEI with forms to modify their fees for the upcoming year as they see fit. Fee increases will be limited to the percent change in the average consumer price index from September 1st to August 31st. of the previous year. By November 1st SEI will provide participants with the upcoming year's schedule of fees whether pricing has changed or not, allowing for a sixty-day notice of the fee increase, with the schedule of fees going into effect on January 1st of the upcoming year. Under special circumstances, for example a new or revised standard is scheduled for a mid-year effective date, an off schedule fee request will be made to the laboratories.

30.19 Annual Participation Fees

The fees provided below are established annually and apply to all SEI participants in the NOCSAE program. Per the SEI / NOCSAE Manufacturer's Agreement fees will not be increased more than once annually. Because fee increases are typically implemented in January, fee increases will be based on the Consumer Price Index from the year prior, using the average from September 1st to August 31st, allowing for a sixty day notice of the fee increase.

Should payment for any invoice owed by the participant be received by SEI more than thirty (30) days after it's initial due date, the participant will be responsible for paying a late fee equal to 2% of the original invoice amount. An additional 2% of the original invoice amount will be added to the total amount due for every thirty (30) additional days that the invoice remains unpaid, from the date of the first late fee. Total amount of late fees per invoice will not exceed more than 10% of the original invoice's total amount due. These late fees will be charged on a separate invoice.

All wire transfer fees shall be the responsibility of the participant. Checks must be in U.S. funds drawn on a bank with a branch in the U.S.

Sales Volume Category	2026 Annual Participation Fees: NOCSAE Program
New Participant	$4,500.00
Under $375,000	$4,104.00
$375,000 - $1 million	$6,305.00
$1 – 5 million	$6,609.00
$5 – 20 million	$7,158.00
$20 – 40 million	$7,499.00
$40 – 60 million	$7,944.00
$60 – 100 million	$8,230.00
$100 – 250 million	$9,344.00
Over $250 million	$9,636.00

30.20 Quality Assurance Fees

Quality audit fees are quoted upon request for time and travel. A 10% surcharge is added to quality audit fees. Fees must be paid in advance for all new participants. New participants will be provided with a quote for prepayment.

The daily quality audit fee for all NOCSAE audits is $846 per day, plus travel expenses. Additional fees as noted in Section 7.2.1 from the CPM are also applicable. New participants will be provided with a quote for prepayment.

A $212 fee will be incurred for all QC/QA protocol reviews. A $64 per hour fee will be incurred for any excess hours required for corrective action reviews or QC/QA reviews.

Audit Rescheduling Fee is $257.00 (applies to all audit types including remote/virtual if audit is canceled within the 48 hours prior to the start time). In addition to the $257.00 Audit Rescheduling Fee, participants canceling an audit after scheduling will also be billed any costs incurred on the part of the auditor. This includes and is not limited to the purchase/cancellation of airline tickets.

30.21 Miscellaneous Fees

Action	Fee
Private Label Application Fee (Base Model) Private Label Annual Certification Fee (Base Model) Private Label Application Fee (Accessory & Variant Models) Private Label Annual Certification Fee (Accessory & Variant Models) Private Label Certification Letter for Private Label Company	$126.00 $241.00 $85.00 $80.00 $85.00
Investigation of noncompliance after first 8 hours of SEI staff time	$135.00/hr. + cost of materials
Complaint investigation after first 8 hours of SEI staff time	$135.00/hr. + cost of materials
Fees for use of legal counsel in responding to legal actions involving complaints (regardless of whether the complaint is determined to be valid), recalls or investigations against participant's certified products	Rebilled at SEI's attorney's fees
American Arbitration Association (AAA) Appeals Board Fees	Established by the AAA in Washington, D.C.
Review for Acceptance of Previous or Other Test Data	$135.00 per hour