Protection Levels Explained

The NATO Standardisation Agreement (STANAG) 2920 is the internationally recognised standard for fragmentation protection on all types of armour from Ballistic Helmets and Body Armour , to Add-on Vehicle Armour Systems.

In Hostile Environments individuals are at a much greater risk from fragmentation than they are from bullets, this generally comes in the form of fragmentation from bombs, shells, IED's and Grenades known as primary fragmentation and from elements of the local environment being driven with explosive force, for instance broken glass and splinters, known as secondary fragmentation.

To test to STANAG 2920 a fragment also known as a Fragment Simulating Projectile (FSP) is fired at the item being tested, the Velocity is increased until the fragment defeats the item. Six Velocities are taken into account when rating an item, 3 are the highest velocities that achieved partial penetration , 3 are the lowest velocities that achieved complete penetration (providing each velocity is within 40m/s of each other), these are then averaged to provide a STANAG 2920 V_{50} rating generally shown as V_{50} – 000 m/s.