Out of Many, One

The InterAgency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability (IAB) is a user-working group supported by voluntary participation from various state, local, federal government and private organizations.

> "The IAB commitment to the safety and health of the response community through standardization and interoperability of equipment and training remains as strong as ever. We will continue to provide information to the response community and a multidisciplinary voice of responder priorities to the federal partners."
>
> *- Robert Ingram | Chair, InterAgency Board*
> *Chief in Charge - HazMat Operations*
> *Fire Department, City of New York*

History

The IAB was sanctioned in 1998 by the U.S. Attorney General and founded by the Department of Defense's Consequence Management Program Integration Office and the Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Investigation Weapons of Mass Destruction Countermeasures Unit.

Scope

The IAB supports state, local, and federal responders' efforts in homeland security through the following activities:

- Provides independent operational viewpoint to federal agencies.
- Facilitates integration with state, local, and federal response communities to promote proper selection and use of the best available equipment and procedures to optimize safety, interoperability, and efficiency.
- Develops, maintains, and updates the Standardized Equipment List (SEL).
- Shares knowledge, expertise, and technology related to all-hazards incidents with special emphasis on CBRNE.
- Establishes significant relationships with initiatives including the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB).
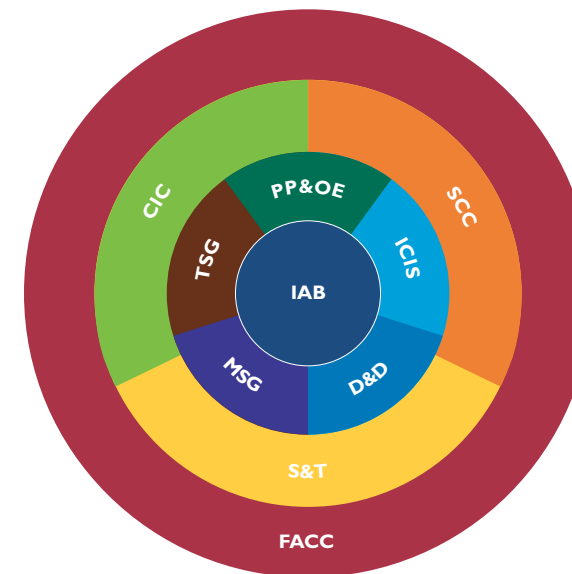
Standardized Equipment List (SEL)

The SEL is a generic list of equipment and supplies recommended by the IAB to state, local, and federal organizations in preparing for and responding to all-hazards incident responses. Vetted by the user community, the SEL promotes interoperability and standardization across the response community by offering a standard reference and common set of terminology. The SEL is continually updated and does not identify specific products or manufacturers.

- Hard copy or PDF version: visit IAB website at **www.iab.gov**
- Interactive version: visit Responder Knowledge Base at **www.rkb.mipt.org**

Organizational Structure

The IAB, chaired by a state or local first responder, is divided into Committees and SubGroups that focus on specific mission areas. SubGroups are co-chaired by a first responder and a federal representative and are responsible for maintaining their respective section of the Standardized Equipment List. SubGroups also prepare an annual report of activities.

Federal Agency Coordinating Committee (FACC)

FACC provides the interface between the IAB Chair and the sponsoring federal government agencies to coordinate the interests and initiatives of the federal and first responder communities.

Federal funding for the IAB has been provided by DHS Office of Grants and Training; DHS Science and Technology Directorate; National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health/National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory; NIST Office of Law Enforcement Standards; and Department of Defense Chemical and Biological Defense Program. Other federal agencies are encouraged to consider sponsorship.

Membership

IAB membership represents state, local, and federal first responders. The membership encompasses experienced responders from the fire, law enforcement, emergency medical, public health, public utilities, military, federal, emergency management, research, search and rescue, standards development, and homeland security communities.

- The InterAgency Board (IAB)
- Federal Agency Coordinating Committee (FACC)
- Standards Coordination Committee (SCC)
- Science & Technology (S&T) Committee
- Compatibility & Interoperability Committee (CIC)
- Personal Protective & Operational Equipment (PP&OE) SubGroup
- Interoperable Communications & Information Systems (ICIS) SubGroup
- Detection & Decontamination (D&D) SubGroup
- Medical SubGroup (MSG)
- Training SubGroup (TSG)

IAB Partnership with the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB)

The Responder Knowledge Base provides:

- A trusted, integrated, on-line source of information on products, standards, certifications, grants, and other equipment related information to emergency responders, purchasers, and planners.

- Access to the IAB Standardized Equipment List (SEL) and the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL), including an integrated display that combines key information from the two lists.

- Rapid cross-references via "Knowledge Links" to connect commercial products to key information such as standards, available grants, and operational suitability tests.

Visit the RKB at **www.rkb.mipt.org**

Improving All-Hazards Response

IAB | **InterAgency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability**

The IAB's mission is to establish and coordinate local, state, and federal standardization, interoperability, compatibility, and responder health and safety to prepare for, train and respond to, mitigate, and recover from any incident by identifying requirements for an all-hazards incident response with a special emphasis on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or Explosive (CBRNE) issues.