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**Fire & Rescue Division
Hazardous Materials Section****BULLETIN # 23**

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**Responder Knowledge Base (RKB)
And
DHS Authorized Equipment List (FEMA - AEL)
And
ODP Standardized Equipment List (IAB - SEL)**

The “Responder Knowledge Base” is developed, provided, and sponsored by FEMA, Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Its mission is to provide emergency responders, purchasers, and planners with a trusted and integrated source of information on products, standards, certifications, grants and grant sources, and other equipment-related information. The Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) cooperates with other sites in constructing links that will help emergency responders. The RKB has been designed to provide emergency responders with a single source for integrated information on current equipment, including organizing information such as the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) Inter-Agency Board’s (IAB) Standardized Equipment List (SEL), and the FEMA Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Authorized Equipment List (AEL).

The Authorized Equipment List (AEL):

This document is produced by the FEMA Grant Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security. It is the generic list of equipment items allowable under several DHS grant programs, including the Homeland Security Grant Program. The AEL displays only the official AEL items.

The Standardized Equipment List (SEL):

This document is produced by the Office of Domestic Preparedness, Inter-Agency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability (IAB), and contains minimum equipment

recommendations for response to WMD incidents. It includes recommended features and operating considerations. This choice displays only the SEL.

To support the response community, the RKB has developed an ***integrated format that displays both SEL and AEL*** information in a single record. This choice will provide all of the information from both lists without the need for cross-references. Both lists are virtually the same, and they have been integrated into one combined document.

To access and print this integrated document in PDF format, go to:

<https://www.rkb.us/mel.cfm>

Using this integrated AEL document is essential in both qualifying for hazardous materials equipment grants and then later in determining what equipment is allowable under the grant.

There are several different grant programs that from time to time are re-authorized with new federal funding. Each grant program has a specific focus on authorized equipment, applicable recipients, and differing objectives (i.e. equipment grants, planning grants, training grants, etc.) The integrated AEL lists all of the specific grant programs, and further provides information on allowable equipment expenditures for the grants. The AEL uses a numbering system to identify 13 different the grant programs. If a specific equipment item in the AEL qualifies for one or more of the grants, that item is marked for applicability.

The following is the list of current and specific Grant Programs:

1. **SHSP** – State Homeland Security Program.
This core assistance program provides funds to build capabilities at the State and local levels and to implement the goals and objectives included in State homeland security strategies and initiatives in the State Preparedness Report.
2. **UASI** – Urban Area Security Initiative
UASI program funds address the unique planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density Urban Areas, and assist them in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.
3. **LETPP** – law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program
4. **MMRS** – Metropolitan Medical Response System
The MMRS program supports the integration of emergency management, health, and medical systems into a coordinated response to mass casualty incidents caused by any hazard.
5. **CCP** – Citizens Corps Program
The Citizen Corps mission is to bring community and government leaders together to coordinate the involvement of community members and organizations in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery.

6. **EMPG** – Emergency Management Performance Grants
The purpose of the FY 2009 EMPG is to assist State and local governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities.
7. **TSGP** – Transit Security Grant Program
The FY2009 TSGP provides grant funding to the nation's key high-threat urban areas to enhance security measures for their critical transit infrastructure including bus, ferry and rail systems.
8. **PSGP** – Port Security Grant Program
The PSGP provides grant funding to port areas for the protection of critical port infrastructure from terrorism. PSGP funds help ports enhance their risk management capabilities, domain awareness, training and exercises, and capabilities to prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from attacks involving improvised explosive devices and other non-conventional weapons.
9. **BZPP** – Buffer Zone Protection Program
BZPP provides grants to build security and risk-management capabilities at the State and local level in order to secure pre-designated Tier I and Tier II critical infrastructure sites, including chemical facilities, financial institutions, nuclear and electric power plants, dams, stadiums, and other high-risk/high-consequence facilities.
10. **Chem-BZPP** – Chemical Buffer Zone Protection Program
11. **NSGP** – Non-Profit Grant Program
The FY2009 UASI NSGP provides funding support for target-hardening activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of terrorist attack and are located within one of the specific UASI-eligible Urban Areas.
12. **PSIC** – Public Safety Interoperable Communications Program
13. **EOC** – Emergency Operations Center
The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program is intended to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, and interoperable Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs.

The AEL also specifies its own inventory type number for each individual equipment item. This number is known as the *Responder Knowledge Base* or RKB Number. Applications for grants and other associated grant documentation require that this number be used. If a particular hazardous materials equipment item is not listed in the AEL, or does not have an assigned RKB number, in all likelihood that item will not qualify for consideration.

One feature that was not carried over into the integrated version of the AEL is the Introductory and Forward sections of the Inter-Agency Board for Equipment Standardization

and Interoperability (IAB) SEL. It is very informative and contains a great deal of useful information for the agency's manager of the grant application and completion.

To access and print this integrated document in PDF format, go to:

<https://iab.gov/Uploads/2009sel.pdf>

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS:

There is a Guidance Document "*Homeland Security Grant Program Guidance and Application Kit*", for fiscal year 2009.

Go To <https://www.rkb.us/mel.cfm?subtypeid=549>

Then click on "FY2009 HSGP Grant Guidance" link. It is a document that explains - - -. It is in PDF format.

Other related links and web-sites that may be helpful in the grant process are:

www.firegrantsupport.com

www.grants.gov

www.usagovernmentgrants.org

www.rkb.us/mel.cfm

www.rkb.us/linking.cfm

<https://iab.gov/Uploads/2009sel.pdf>