



**Homeland
Security**

Science and Technology

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program to assist emergency responders making procurement decisions.

Located within the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) of DHS, the SAVER Program conducts objective assessments and validations on commercial equipment and systems, and provides those results along with other relevant equipment information to the emergency response community in an operationally useful form. SAVER provides information on equipment that falls within the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL). The SAVER Program mission includes:

- Conducting impartial, practitioner-relevant, operationally oriented assessments and validations of emergency responder equipment; and
- Providing information that enables decision makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency responder equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the responder community, providing a life- and cost-saving asset to DHS, as well as to Federal, state, and local responders.

The SAVER Program is supported by a network of technical agents who perform assessment and validation activities. Further, SAVER focuses primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?"

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Visit SAVER on the RKB website:

<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

Handheld Ion Mobility Spectrometry Trace Explosives Detectors

Handheld ion mobility spectrometry (IMS) trace explosives detectors are used by security personnel to screen packages, vehicles, clothing, and other items for trace residues of explosives. These gas sampling and analysis instruments can detect a wide range of explosives vapor compounds, and they can be operated in either vapor-sampling or particle-sampling mode.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right handheld IMS trace explosives detector for their jurisdiction, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) prepared the *Handheld Ion Mobility Spectrometry (IMS) Trace Explosives Detectors TechNote* for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The TechNote provides details on how these instruments are used, how they work, and what features they have.

All reports in this series will be placed in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base website (<https://www.rkb.us/saver>) as they become available. Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.



Handheld IMS Trace Explosives Detector