



## **Levels of security for Safariland® Holsters**

Safariland purchased the Rogers Holster Company in 1985. At the time of purchase, Safariland adopted a security rating system that had been developed by the Rogers Holster Company in 1975. This system was based on a series of simple tests that could be conducted in the field by the end user. At the time of purchase, the Rogers SS2 and SS3 holsters were the only holsters that could pass the described Level II and Level III tests. They became Safariland Models 295 and 070 and are still manufactured and sold to this day.

Advancement in holster technology and no set standard for testing has in many ways confused the terminology used to describe security levels. Because of this confusion, many law enforcement agencies presently are shown holsters of other manufacturers and are told that the product conforms to a certain level of security. In most cases those stated levels of security do not match the same tests that Safariland has historically used. In order to clarify the Safariland tests and to make it easier to understand the levels of security when compared to present day designs, clearly defined terminology is required.

Although Safariland has not changed the method of testing its holsters, in reviewing the present mechanisms we have changed the security level rating of some of our models. Twenty years ago the use of the socket and stud snap was the primary securing lock. Now the industry uses several locking mechanisms that re-engage if the user releases them. In some cases an additional movement is required by the user to release a mechanism. For example, in the case of Safariland's SLS, the user must overcome the pressure of two springs to push the hood down in order to unlock the mechanism. Then, while holding the unit in the down unlocked position, the user must rotate the hood completely forward to allow the weapon an opening to exit from the holster. If the user simply pushes the hood down to the unlocked position and then releases it, allowing the hood to re-lock, the holster is as secure as it was initially. However, since there are two separate and distinct motions (much like releasing a snap and then rotating the weapon forward slightly with the older 295 holster before drawing), the SLS provides two levels of security by itself. By adding a Sentry device to the SLS, which requires a separate and distinct motion by the user, a third level of security is achieved.



## The Test Retention Level I™

The Holster Retention Test is described as applying all the force to the grip or handle of the weapon by an individual while the weapon is totally secured in the holster and mounted on a suitable belt being worn by another individual. The test is to simulate a “grab and snatch” initiated by an adversary. The direction of force is unlimited but the duration of the force is limited to 5 seconds. At the end of the 5 seconds, the weapon must still be secure in the holster and the holster must still be attached to the operator. The operator must be able to accomplish a draw after the attack within the times set as a standard by the controlling department or within two seconds if no standard exists. If the holster passes this initial test, it qualifies as a Level I Retention™ Security Holster. The Holster Retention Test described above is referred to as the “Test”, but over the years, it has become synonymous with “Level I test”

### Level II Retention™

Before a holster can be considered for a Level II rating, it must first pass the Holster Retention Test. After passing the Test, the primary lock must be disabled and the same Retention Test is repeated. In order to test the holster for a Level II rating, the primary securing device must be determined. The primary securing device is defined as the lock that requires the first action by the user in order to start the drawing sequence. This initial action is an individual and deliberate action by the user to start the unlocking of any securing mechanism. As an example, the flipping back of the lever release of a Sentry device installed on a Safariland SLS system would be the first action required by the user, so the Sentry would be considered the primary securing device. In order to deactivate the lock, the lever, button, pad, tab or other indexing point must be placed and held in the position that the user would place it in with the initial action. In the case of an SLS without a Sentry, the hood must be pushed down and held in the down position but not pushed forward, as that would be a second required motion by the user. The holster is tested with the initial lock disabled. It does not have to pass the complete test. If the holster exhibits the ability to further secure the weapon in a meaningful way after the primary lock is disengaged then it qualifies as a Retention Level II™ security holster. If after disabling the initial lock, the holster can again completely pass the Holster Retention Test, then it is clearly rated as a Level II and may qualify for additional levels of security.

### Level III Retention™ and additional levels

A Level I holster that has completely passed a second Holster Retention Test, with the primary lock disabled, is clearly rated at a Level II. It can be further tested for additional levels of security. To determine a further rating, the second motion or action required by the user to continue the drawing sequence must be simulated. As in the example described in the Level II rating of the SLS, the hood would be pushed down and then pushed forward in the final unlocked position before the Retention Test is performed.

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The holster does not have to pass the complete test. If the holster exhibits the ability to secure the weapon in a meaningful way after the secondary lock is disabled, then it qualifies as a Level III Retention™ security holster. Some models of the 6280 holster can be adjusted with the tension screw such that the weapon will significantly bind in the holster if it is not drawn in a straight up motion. Of course if the holster passes a complete Retention Test with the second lock disabled, it can be tested for further security levels by continuing to disable additional locks and conducting the same tests as outlined above.



## Examples

The following are some examples of Safariland holsters rated using the guidelines above:

6320 .....	Level I Retention™
200 .....	Level I Retention™
295 .....	Level II Retention™
6280 as normally adjusted .....	Level II Retention™
6280 w/ tension screw adjusted firmly.....	Level III Retention™
6360.....	Level III Retention™
6270.....	Level III Retention™
070 .....	Level III Retention™
6070 .....	Level IV Retention™
6295 .....	Level IV Retention™

Above holsters with SLS can be increased one level of security by adding a Sentry device.

This document is intended as a summary guideline for Safariland holster retention levels. For further information or explanation please contact your local Technical Specialist:

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