



Derry City & Strabane
District Council

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Derry City & Strabane District Council
Health & Community Wellbeing

Officer's Guidance: Horse Riding Hats

Withdrawal of the harmonised standard (BS) EN1384
'Helmets for equestrian activities' from the
Official Journal of the European Union



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Horse Riding Hats - Product Safety Guidance

All hats and skulls must be fitted with an integral adjustable nylon harness and must bear the CE mark showing compliance with the basic health and safety requirements shown in the European Directive 89/686/EEC on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This compliance is usually shown by meeting one of a range of Standards, having passed the required test.

It is important to replace a riding hat after a fall, especially when it comes into contact with the ground. It is impossible to see with the naked eye whether the hat is damaged. Although no visible damage may be seen, any severe impact to the riding hat can result in diminished protection.

Hat Safety Standards

BS EN1384 is no longer a harmonised Standard under the European Directive 89/686/EEC on PPE as the presumption of conformity has been withdrawn from this range of standards. Hat manufacturers must use alternative standards in order to CE mark their hats and ultimately place on the market.

European standards are reviewed every five years or following a complaint about its efficacy and although a review does not necessarily lead to a new standard, history has shown that a new standard emerges every ten years or so. PAS standards are managed by the BSI and are reviewed every two years.

CE Mark

All hats sold in Europe must be CE marked, i.e. declaring compliance with the regulations as stated in the European Directive 89/686/EEC on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). A CE mark is not a hat safety standard.

Going forward, CE marked riding hats will have to be successfully tested and certified against an alternative specification to allow CE certification to continue. Riding hats cannot be CE marked solely to ASTM F1163 or the AS/NZ3838(2006) without additional testing.

The following Standards have been deemed acceptable in relation to product safety standards and CE marking of Horse Riding Hats:

British & European

VG1 (with Kitemark or IC Mark)

Developed by Vertical Group 1, comprising the notified bodies who test and certify hats around Europe, this testing specification is based on the EN1384 with additions to the requirements and testing procedures to bring it up to a level similar to PAS015.

PAS015: 1998/ PAS015: 2011 (with or without Kitemark mark or IC Mark)

This stands for Product Approval Specification and was developed by the British Standards Institute (BSI) in response to concerns about the time it was taking to develop what would become the EN1384. The first version was formulated by looking at drafts for the European standard and taking the highest option in each case. The 1998 revision of the PAS015 addressed new areas of protection such as crush resistance and protection against injury when landing on an edged surface. As the test line is lower at the front it tends to lead to slightly bulkier helmets. A stability test is also included to limit excessive movement during wearing or a fall. This has been revised in 2011 with an increased drop height and several other amendments affecting the performance of hats. The 1998 version is no longer manufactured.



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American

ASTM F1163: 2004a/ 2015 (with SEI mark)

This is the American standard for riding hats and is similar to PAS015:1998 although it does not include a lateral rigidity (crushing) test nor a penetration test, meaning these hats often have quite large ventilation holes or slots. There is much debate about the ventilation holes and whether they do help to cool the head or put the rider at more risk of penetration type injuries. There are many helmets on the market however with ventilation holes that do pass the PAS and EN1384 penetration tests as well as the ASTM standard.



Snell E2001 / E2016

This standard was developed in America by the Snell Institute. It is a higher performance standard which includes all aspects of ASTM and PAS 015 but with a sharper horseshoe anvil (to replicate a horse kick or impact with a sharp surface), higher impacts and an additional hemispherical anvil to represent an uneven but not sharp surface such as a tree, fence or cobbled surface.



Australia & New Zealand

AS/NZS 3838: 2006 (with SAI global mark)

This Australasian standard is comparable to the EN1384 but testing includes the hazard anvil from PAS 015 but does not include a penetration test.

Quality Assurance Mark

When a Quality Assurance Mark is displayed on the hat it:

- gives the user visible evidence of the helmet's quality, safety and performance as defined in the specification
- shows the helmets are independently and regularly batch tested by the relevant company or organisation to the appropriate specification.



Kitemark

This is the registered trademark of the British Standards Institute.

IC Mark

This quality mark is operated by Inspec and applied to PAS 015 and VG1-compliant helmets.



SEI - Safety Equipment Institute

The SEI quality mark is the American equivalent of the Kitemark for ASTM standard hats. Its system of regulation includes design approval and audit testing of product. Hats must be tested a minimum of annually, however the company must also show an internal auditing and quality control system of regular testing that may include batch testing.



SAI Global

The "five ticks" Standards Mark for the Quality Assurance Scheme of Australia shows certification to their version of the Kitemark, requiring batch testing and company auditing.



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Useful links:

<http://www.beta-uk.org/pages/safety-equipment/hats.php>

<http://www.bhs.org.uk/advice-and-information/safety-advice-and-information/what-to-wear/headwear>



This information is available upon request in a number of formats including large print, Braille, PDF, audio formats (CD, MP3, DAISY) and other minority languages.

For further information on alternative formats please contact

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