

Body Protector and Riding Hat Update

Body Protector

As some of you may be aware, we have been working on a revision to the BETA 2009 (EN13158 2009) Standard over the past couple of years as part of the European Working group WG11.

This work has now been completed with a positive vote across the EU. The central standards authority in the EU will be sending the final version to countries for publication in January / February next year so the standard will bear the year 2018. The European Commission has still to decide whether the new standard will be harmonised and we await their decision on this. Harmonisation implies that the standard meets all basic requirements and can be used for the purpose of CE marking. Once again, the level of impact protection remains unchanged. The revisions implemented mainly impact on testing houses and manufacturers in the way they design the garments, allowing as they do for larger arm holes once again.

In parallel with this we will be revising the BETA standard which will also be reissued next year bearing the 2018 date. We are planning to change the colour of the Level 3 label as purple has been now used for over 20 years and we may also take the opportunity to change the colour of the level 2 label as it becomes more used in racing applications.

The disciplines that set a minimum standard for body protection (primarily Pony Club, Eventing and Riding Clubs) have now changed their rules to only accept garments marked 2009 for next year and all have indicated that they will accept the 2018 version when available. They will continue to accept 2009 garments for years to come as was the case with the 2000 version but no time limit has been set. It is likely however that they will continue to allow the 2009 version for at least the next 6 or more years which equates to the typical life of a garment.

BETA continues to advise all riding organisations to accept both 2009 and 2018 BETA standards for the foreseeable future in their rules.

Riding Hats

The new standard EN1384:2017 was published earlier this year across Europe following a positive vote amongst EU nations and we have been awaiting its harmonisation through publication in the Official Journal which allows companies to CE mark against this standard. Late in November we received news through the committee responsible for hat standards (TC158) that the Commission were not happy to harmonise the standard, despite the CEN Consultant giving it a positive assessment.

This is very disappointing after all the work WG5 put into creating a standard that offered a greater level of protection than the previous version and answered the objections that had led to the standard's withdrawal in 2014.

A meeting of those involved, including a representative of the Commission has been called in mid January to discuss a way forward. BETA will be attending that meeting. Until then it is impossible to say what will happen with the EN1384. The BSI, responsible for kite marking, has confirmed that until the situation is clarified they will not be offering kitemarking to the EN1384:2017.

In terms of the UK equestrian sporting bodies, all had planned to include the EN1384:2017 in their rules but some (Pony Club, Eventing and British Riding Clubs) have decided to now wait until the situation has been clarified. Others have included acceptance of the EN1384:2017 but are aware of the situation surrounding the delayed harmonisation.

BETA continues to advise riding organisations to accept all current standards including VG1 or PAS015 (certified with the kitemark), Snell E2001, E2016 with Snell certification and ASTM F1163 2004a onwards all with a CE mark for the foreseeable future in their rules.

In addition please be aware that the Pony Club, British Eventing and British Riding Clubs will be jointly hat tagging next year. The tag colour is aqua and this means for the first time that a hat tagged by any one of these bodies will be accepted by the other two.

Should you have any queries about any of the above please don't hesitate to contact Claire Williams.