



BETA 2009 – Revision to the BETA Standard

A revised version of the BETA 2000 was published and adopted by BETA in April 2009 and is to be known as BETA 2009.

The existing version - BETA 2000 - will continue as a current standard for the next two years. Manufacturers wishing to retest will be able to manufacture these garments until July 2011. Garments made to BETA 2000 will still be able to be sold from shops after this date. It is however expected that most companies will convert to the latest version of the standard before these deadlines.

Revision changes:

It is to be emphasised that the 2009 revision is precisely that – a revision of the existing standard. It is **not** a new standard and the safety of the garment in terms of the amount of impact the garment absorbs remains unchanged, as does the main coverage of the body protector itself.

The main changes relate to the testing processes and the attention given during testing.

- More attention is given to the zip area so that those garments that do not already, are likely to see zip covers and additional padding over the zip area.
- The centre back panel must be in one piece from top to bottom of at least 4 inches wide. This may require a change in design from those garments featuring smaller blocks.
- The requirements for the design of the shoulder are more stringent about gaps and will likely see the closure positioned slightly differently.

What does this mean for you?

Immediately very little as the safety of garments is essentially unchanged.

You will notice that garments approved to the new 2009 revision will start to enter the market but garments currently approved to BETA 2000 however will continue to be approved and manufactured and will continue to be accepted by all riding organisations. Plenty of warning will be given if it is decided that the BETA 2000 standard should be withdrawn, however garments made to this will still be valid for their recommended lifespan of 3 – 5 years.