




Hats and Body Protectors

We have now checked hats at four championships and are still finding substantial numbers that are not complying with our rules.

The BRC hat standards are quite simple, namely:

<p>PAS 015 (1998 or 2011) BSEN 1384 (1997) EN 1384 (1996)</p> <p><u>AND MUST HAVE</u></p> <p>BSI Kitemark</p> 	<p>ASTM F1163 (2004)</p> <p><u>AND MUST HAVE</u></p> <p>SEI mark</p> 	<p>SNELL E2001</p> <p><u>AND MUST HAVE</u></p> <p>Official SNELL label and number</p> 	<p>AS/NZS 3838 (2003 or 2006)</p> <p><u>AND MUST HAVE</u></p> <p>SAI Global mark</p> 
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A CE mark on its own is insufficient; one of the above **must** also be in the hat.

When checking your own hat it's important that there is an appropriate mark as well as the standard, the standard alone is insufficient.

Many of the hats that have been rejected have been from the far east, bought on EBay, or were purchased second hand etc. The BRC advice is quite simple, always buy a hat of the correct standard and have it fitted by a trained and approved hat fitter.

Also some people are removing the labels as they irritate them etc – this of course means that that hat may be of the correct standard but we cannot allow them to be worn at a BRC competition

With back protectors we again have found substantial numbers being used by members that offer little or no protection as they are not to any level, or are Level 1 or Level 2 or of an even older level.

Our standard is quite simple, body protectors **must** be a Level 3, **must** have the BETA Purple label attached to the body protector (not just the removable shoulder pads) and **must** have been manufactured in the year 2000 or later. We have found riders with unlabeled body protectors and a purple label on the shoulder pads and they think that this is acceptable, it is not.

A number of riders have been misled by trade names. For example Race Safe, these are produced to the various levels, only the Level 3 with the purple BETA label is acceptable.

If riders are wearing an air jacket they **must** also wear a Level 3 back protector with purple BETA label. If they have the new combination air jacket and back protector it must carry the purple Level 3 BETA purple label

If you are using the Exo Body Cage can they please ensure that the Allen keys are in the pouches provided and that the Secretary of the event is aware that you are using one.

We will continue to check at all Championships so please remember to bring your hats and back protectors to be checked at the same time as you horse and their flu vac history. Plus, in 2012 we will be checking hats at all Area Qualifiers.

Remember that we are doing these checks to ensure your safe and continued riding so we don't appreciate our stewards and officials getting verbal abuse (as has happened) and we will deal with offenders severely.