

Safety Equipment:

Riding Hats

Treat your hat like it's a treasure and it is unlikely to let you down when you really need it! Store your hat in a cool, dry, place; do not allow it to rattle around in the boot of the car as this may cause tiny hairline fractures which eventually weaken the structure. Any hat that has suffered a heavy impact, either when being worn or by being dropped on a hard surface should be replaced. If you have any issues regarding the suitability/condition of your hat please consult your riding instructor who will offer further advice.

Understanding Safety Standards and Kite Marks

Please be aware of the withdrawal of the popular riding hat standard BS EN1384 before you purchase a new hat.

The withdrawal of the standard has no effect on riding hats already on the market. Once a hat has been manufactured to a standard it will not become "non-standard" after withdrawal and can continue to be sold and worn, however only hats to the following specification will be acceptable for use at HRA from 1st January 2017. The BS EN1384 will not be acceptable after this date and hats must be to one of the following specifications (please see chart below) There is a new standard being developed to replace EN1384 and it is expected that this will also be accepted as and when it has been completed. We will let you know when this happens.

<p>PAS015 (1998 or 2011)</p> <p>And must have the BSI Kitemark</p>  <p>The BSI Kitemark logo features a stylized kite shape with a heart inside, and the text 'PAS 015:2011 KITEMARK' below it.</p>	<p>ASTM F1163 (2004a)</p> <p>And must have SEI Mark</p>  <p>The SEI Mark logo consists of the letters 'SEI' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, enclosed within a blue rounded rectangular border.</p>	<p>SNELL E2001</p> <p>This standard was developed in America by the Snell Institute. It is higher performance standard which includes all aspects of ASTM and PAS015.</p>	<p>VG1</p> <p>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. As this is an interim specification it is not expected to exist longer than the time it takes to prepare the new EU standard, but will be allowed after the new standard is developed.</p>
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Other Important Points

Frequently asked questions regarding the reasons why the BSEN1384 has been withdrawn can be found on the BETA website by visiting the FAQ section of the following web page

www.beta-uk.org/pages/safety-equipment/hats.php

HRA recommends that hats are updated every three years.

Body / Back Protectors

Body or Back Protectors are foam filled vest type garments which are worn over the top of clothes and either over or under a jacket designed to give protection to the back and chest area of the rider should the rider fall or be kicked. These are optional and must be fitted by a professional.