



## RIDE SAFELY

### A Helpsheet on Hats

When the Fund was first established, general hat standards were nowhere near as good as they are today, so historically MDIRF has supported the ENHAP testing programme on various top standard certified hats and became one of the first sources of impartial advice on rider safety wear.

Over the last 10 years, riding hats and head protection standards have been radically improved and unbiased information regarding those standards has been available to anyone who is interested in safety. Due to this and the enormous expense of the ENHAP testing programme on various top standard certified hats, the Trustees feel they can no longer justify continued funding of the MDIRF ENHAP programme.

**However, we have summarised general advice on these issues in this helpsheet and further information is also available on the relevant safety pages at [www.beta-uk.org](http://www.beta-uk.org).**

**In addition, if you have any queries regarding standards, makes, models or fitting of hats and wish to discuss them, please feel free to call Rosemary on 01726 81315 .**

### **1. HATS - STANDARD & QUALITY ASSURANCE MARKS**

#### **Current Standards of Riding Hats**

##### **BS EN 1384**

The current European standard

##### **PAS 015**

This specification is the BSI's enhanced en 1384 standard offering more protection than the En1384 alone

##### **ASTM F 1163/SEI**

The American Standard

##### **Aust/New Zealand SNZ 3838**

The Australian and New Zealand Standard

##### **Snell E2001**

The Snell Foundation Standard

## **Quality Assurance Marks**

### **KITEMARK**

This is the registered trade mark of the British Standards Institute (BSI) and can only be added to hats that have been certified by the BSI

### **SEI MARK**

SEI Safety Equipment Institute

The SEI is a similar certification in the USA to the BSI

### **CE MARK**

This is a mark which shows that a product has met the BASIC safety requirements in Europe

Remember:

It is recommended that riders wear a hat which offers the higher levels of protection. These include: those carrying the following marks: Snell 2001, Pas 015, ASTM F1163, SNZ 3838, BS EN1384

- It is always recommended that hats used should bear a Kite Mark and or a SEI mark.
- Please check with the various disciplines as to which hats they will allow to be used.
- It is a legal requirement that Children under 14 years wear a hat when riding on the road.

## **2. HATS – The importance of FITTING**

**No matter which hat you chose unless it fits correctly it will not offer the best protection**

We strongly recommend that you:

- Visit a qualified reputable saddler for help and fitting if you are not happy try elsewhere. This is so vital.
- Position the helmet on your head so that it sits low on your forehead; if you can't see the edge of the brim at the extreme upper range of your vision, the helmet is probably out of place. Adjust the retention system so that when in use, it will hold the helmet firmly in place. This positioning and adjusting should be repeated to obtain the very best result possible. The procedure initially may be time consuming but is absolutely crucial.
- Try to remove the helmet without undoing the retention system closures. If the helmet comes off or shifts over your eyes, readjust and try again. If no adjustment seems to work, this helmet is not for you; try another.
- **After a blow or a fall, a hat must be replaced This is because - although there may be no visible of sign of damage, its construction may be compromised and will not be offering you the full amount of protection.**

NO HAT CAN PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY IN CERTAIN ACCIDENTS.

