Safety Equipment Guidelines for Flat Racing

Published: June 2013
The information contained in this booklet (“Information”) is being presented by the Racing Officials Accreditation Program ("ROAP") solely in support of the duties of those racing officials responsible for checking safety equipment at racetracks conducting horse racing. The Information has been gathered from public websites and documents originally produced by Delaware Jockey’s Association and the Jockeys Guild. All products identified in this booklet are manufactured and supplied by third parties. Although the Information in this booklet is presented in good faith and believed to be correct, ROAP makes no representations or warranties as to the completeness or accuracy of the Information provided. NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR OF ANY OTHER NATURE ARE MADE HEREUNDER WITH RESPECT TO INFORMATION OR THE PRODUCTS TO WHICH INFORMATION REFERS.
Below is the current Model Rule regarding Helmets and Vests. Please check with your individual jurisdiction for the most up to date rule requirements.

**ARCI-008-010 General Provisions**

Z. Safety Equipment

(1) Helmets

Any person mounted on a horse or stable pony on association grounds must wear a properly secured safety helmet at all times. Additionally, all members of the starting gate crew must adhere to this regulation at all times while performing their duties or handling a horse. For the purpose of this regulation, a member of the starting crew means any person licensed as an assistant starter or any person who handles a horse in the starting gate. The helmet must comply with one of the following minimum safety standards or later revisions: American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM 1163); UK Standards (EN-1384 and PAS-015); or, Australian/New Zealand Standard (AS/NZ 3838).

(2) Vests

Any person mounted on a horse or stable pony on the association grounds must wear a properly secured safety vest at all times. Additionally, all members of the starting gate crew must also adhere to this regulation at all times while performing their duties or handling a horse. For the purpose of this regulation, a member of the starting gate crew means any person licensed as an assistant starter or any person who handles a horse at the starting gate. The safety vest must comply with one of the following minimum standards or later revisions:

(a) British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA):2000 Level 1
(b) Euro Norm (EN) 13158:2000 Level 1
(c) American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F2681-08 or F19373.
(d) Shoe and Allied Trade Research Association (SATRA) Jockey Vest Document M6 Issue 3
(e) Australian Racing Board (ARB) Standard 1.1998

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Current Safety Helmets Standards Available

ASTM International

ASTM F1163-13 Standard Specification for Protective Headgear Used in Horse Sports & Horseback Riding (Supersedes ASTM F1163-4a(2011))

European Norm / British Standards

Equivalent Standards


BS EN 1384:2012 Specification for Helmets for Equestrian Activities (tested in UK) (Supersedes BS EN 1384:1997(2008))


Identical Standards

EN 14572:2005 High Performance Helmets for Equestrian Activities

BS EN 14572:2005 High Performance Helmets for Equestrian Activities (tested in UK)

Standards Australia / Standards New Zealand

AS/NZS 3838:2006 Helmets for Horse Riding and Horse-related Activities
Vests that currently meet the Model Rules standards

A FULL comprehensive listing of vests that meet ASTM 1937-04(2010) and ASTM F2681-08 can be found at www.seinet.org by searching Certified Products/Equestrian Body Protectors (2004)/Equestrian Body Protectors

The following pages are examples of some of the commonly used vests

(not in Model Rules, added for reference)
Snell Memorial Foundation
Snell E2001 Standard for Protective Headgear for Use in Horseback Riding

Current Safety Vests/Body Protectors Standards

ASTM International

ASTM F2681-08 Standard Specification for Body Protectors Used in Equine Racing

European Norms / British Equestrian Trade Association
Identical Standards
EN 13158:2009 Protective Clothing BETA 2009 Body Protector Standard

Dated/Obsolete Standards (allowed in current model rules)
Standards Australian Racing Board
ARB Standard 1.1998

SATRA Technology Centre
SATRA 1999 Jockey Vest Standard M6 Issue 3
Identifying the current standards

CE marking attached to a product is a manufacturer’s claim that the product meets all the requirements of the European legislation. Many products must meet legal requirements before they can be sold within the European Community, and must carry CE marking.

A product with a Kitemark this means BSI has independently tested it and has confirmed that the product conforms to the relevant British Standard, and has issued a BSI license to the company to use the Kitemark. The manufacturer pays for this service and their product is tested, and the manufacturing process is assessed, at regular intervals.

ASTM International marking attached to a product is a manufacturer’s claim that the product meets all the requirements of the stated ASTM standard. There is one helmet and two vest standards produced by ASTM. All meet RCI rules.

The Safety Equipment Institute (SEI), is a private, nonprofit organization that administers a non-governmental, third-party certification program and tests and certifies a broad range of safety and protective products used occupationally and recreationally. SEI certification programs are voluntary and available to any manufacturer of safety and protective equipment seeking to have product models certified by SEI. In the United States, conformity assessment of riding helmets to defined standards is performed primarily by SEI.

The Caliente style helmet is one of the commonly used helmets that does not meet the current model rule standard. This helmet is identified by its thin shape and metal clasp closure. Here is a picture of a common Caliente style helmet.
A safety vest displaying a BETA label means BETA has independently tested the vest model and has confirmed that the product conforms to the relevant British Standard, and in addition, all vest models and sizes from the manufacturer are tested annually. There are three distinct Levels of vests. Level 1 is designed specifically for licensed jockeys only. It is the lowest level of protection.

SAI Global Product Certification Services provides third party assurance that a particular product meets the specified requirements of a nominated product standard. SAI Global StandardsMark™ on the product represents reliability, quality assurance and safety. Many Australian and New Zealand manufacturers certify their products through SEI.

Products that have successfully been assessed against SATRA's approved product testing and ongoing conformity assessment programme can differentiate themselves in the market by being able to advertise their products as 'SATRA approved'.
Helmets that currently meet the Model Rules standards

A **FULL comprehensive** listing of helmets that meet ASTM F1163-04a(2011) can be found at [www.seinet.org](http://www.seinet.org) by searching Certified Products/Equestrian Helmets (2004a)/Equestrian Helmet (Note, the F1163-13 standard has just become available. Helmets will begin to come on the market with the updated standard shortly)

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