



Press Release

Important safety update on changes to Equestrian Riding Helmet Standards

The EU Commission has withdrawn the Equestrian Riding Helmet standards EN 1384 and BSEN 1384. This is one of the most common Helmet Standards in New Zealand.

In 2010 NZPCA implemented the first and only Helmet Tagging system in New Zealand which allows the quick and easy identification of Riding Helmets that meet one or more of the approved standards.

In light of the withdrawal of the EN1384 and BSEN 1384 standards as of August 1st 2016

- Any helmets which are certified and only marked with the standard ES 1384 or BSEN 1384 can continue to be tagged with a BLUE tag. Most of these helmets will already have a BLUE tag on but in the event of one of these helmets requiring a new tag only a BLUE tag should be used.
- Helmets which are certified and also marked with one of the other standards permissible by NZPCA (PAS 015, Snell E2001 and AS/NZS 3838) should be tagged with one of the new RED hat tags before the 1st of August 2017. The full list of standards is given below.
- As of 1st August 2017 only helmets carrying RED tags or certified and marked with standards permissible by NZPCA will be permitted to be worn. As of 1st August 2017 no hat bearing a BLUE tag will be permitted to be worn at Pony Club.







NZPCA has been in discussions with a number of leading Saddlery companies for the past 6-9 months concerning this issue.

NZPCA Background Information

It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective helmet at all times when mounted (including at prize-giving) with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the helmet in the event of a fall. The fit of the helmet and the adjustment of the harness are as crucial as the quality. Members are advised to try several makes to find the best fit. The helmet should not move on the head when the head is tipped forward. Helmets must be replaced after a severe impact as subsequent protection will be significantly reduced. Helmets deteriorate with age and should be replaced after three to five years depending upon the amount of use. It is strongly recommended that second hand helmets are not purchased.

NZPCA Helmet Standards

The helmet standards accepted at Pony Club Events and Activities as of 1st January 2016 are detailed in the table below:

Helmet Standard	Safety Mark	Allowed at the following activities:
PAS 015:1998 or 2011 with BSI Kitemark		All Activities
VG1 with BSI Kitemark		All Activities
EN 1384 and BSEN 1384		All Activities until 31st July 2017
Snell E2001 with the official Snell label and number		All Activities
ASTM-F1163 2004a with the SEI mark		All Activities
AS/NZS 3838 1998, 2003 or 2006		All Activities