



Bulletin Pertaining to Helmet Standards

Date: 26/02/2019

Important message to all racers.

Helmet laws changed quite dramatically in 2016, leaving many riders confused, but the bottom line is you can now wear helmets that are 'European standard', opening up a range of new brands and helmets to riders, and potentially encouraging competition among manufacturers. Australian standards still apply, but any helmet that falls under these classifications is 'fit for purpose':

- Australian standards AS/NZS1698:2006 or AS/NZS 1698
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) 22.05 standard – commonly referred to as 'European standard'.

These are the standards for both on-road and off-road bikes, as well as quads. Helmets that comply with one or both of these standards will *usually* have a sticker on the back of the helmet to signify this, but this is not always the case. Helmets are permitted to have a stitched label on the inside of a helmet instead that stipulates that the helmet complies with relevant safety standards. These certifications mean that the helmet has been through testing and will stand up better in a crash.

The main points of concerns when helmet testing from both the Australian and European standard are:

- The helmet needs a means of absorbing impact energy, a means of distributing load, and a retention system. All of these components need to be permanently attached.
- Nothing fitted to the helmet should be likely to cause injury in the cause of an impact.
- The retention system (e.g. the chin strap) needs to be adjustable in order to produce tension.



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What Does this Mean for Drag Racers?

The ECE R22-05 that has now made its way to Australia is mostly available through Motorcycle retail outlets. There are a couple of important areas to look out for when purchasing one of these helmets and they are as follows:

- Ensure there is a clear marking on the helmet with a sticker either on the outside or inside.
- **Ensure there is a Manufacturers Date on the Helmet (A helmet without a Manufacturers Date on it will **NOT** be accepted.** Remembering there is a 10-year life of the Helmet from that date. (No Exceptions)
- Ensure that it meets one of the following Standards.
- AS/NZS1698:2006 or AS/NZS 1698 | SNELL | SFI | FIA | ECE-R22-05 | EC-## |



An ECE 22.05 certification mark, please note the small number may vary but will still be valid.

- ❖ *If all racers could please get into the habit of checking your Helmet Manufacture date before events to ensure you're not turned away from Scrutineering.*