

2018 Riding Hat Standards

Overview

- Due to a change by the European Commission regarding EN1384 and SEN 1384 no longer being an accepted standard, all hats which ONLY meet the standard EN1384 or BSEN1384, and do not comply with another accepted standard WILL NOT be permitted for use.
- Hats which bear EN1384 or BSEN1384 ALONG WITH another accepted standard will be permitted. For example, BSEN1384 & PAS015 (1998 or 2011) along with the Kitemark will be accepted, but not BSEN 1384 on its own.

FAQs for Approved Centre, Accredited Professional Coaches and BHS Members

Q: I am a BHS Gold member. Will I be expected to wear a hat which meets the new requirements?

A: The BHS Gold members' policy does not have a particular stipulation regarding the type of hat that needs to be worn. However, it does have a reasonable precautions condition. This means that all reasonable precautions need to be taken to prevent an incident at all times. Therefore, should an accident arise, insurers may feel that you have not taken the relevant precautions by not wearing the most up to date safety hat. It may not mean that they would not pay out; it may just mean that any damages could be reduced due to contributory negligence.

Q: I run a riding school. What if a client comes for a lesson and appears with their own hat? Our Instructor checks the hat and if it is not of the correct standard, the Instructor tells the client but the client refuses to use a hat from the school in order to replace their own hat. How does the riding school stand from an insurance point of view if the client rides in the lesson?

A: For our riding schools, our insurers have said, in this situation, the riding school should still insist the rider wears a hat up to the current standards. The reason is that the riding school is the "professional" in this situation and if they have not insisted on them wearing the correct riding hat and an injury occurs, the third party solicitors could use this against the riding school and they feel it would be difficult to defend a claim in this situation.

Q: I am a freelance Instructor and I have a client who does not want to replace her hat to comply with the new current accepted standards. Where do I stand if I teach a client knowing their hat is not to the required standard?

A: The Instructor should be checking the rider's hat as part of their risk assessment and advising clients if their hat is not to a current standard. If a rider does not have the correct standard hat but still wishes to continue with the lesson, then this must be documented by the Instructor that they have chosen to continue the lesson using that hat.

Q: I run a livery yard, should I make sure that all of the liveries wear a hat to the current standard requirements?

A: If there are yard rules which stipulate the type of hat to be worn then these should be updated to specify that hats should be to the current standard. If you do not have yard rules regarding hats then you should be advising your livery clients that there has been a change in hat standards and recommend that individuals get their hats checked.

Q: I don't want to insist that my clients wear the correct hat, can I ask them to sign a disclaimer?

A: No. Our insurance company have advised that this is not recommended as case history suggests that a disclaimer does not stand up in a court of law should an individual be prosecuted.

Q: I am taking a BHS Assessment in 2018; will I need to wear a hat to the 2018 standards?

A: All BHS Assessments are covered by the BHS third party public liability insurance; therefore it is a requirement that all candidates must wear hats to the required standard. Additionally, fixed peaks will not be permitted for any cross country element of any assessment.

Q: I will be taking a BHS Assessment at an international centre. What are the requirements?

A: The hat standard requirements are not the same as in the UK but we would recommend that the same standards are applied to international assessments. All international BHS Assessments are covered by the BHS third party public liability insurance, therefore it is a requirement that all candidates must wear hats to the required standard.