

HAT & BODY PROTECTOR RULES

Protective Headwear

Protective Headwear must be worn at all times when mounted at any RDA event whether competing or not. Harnesses must be correctly adjusted and fastened at all times. At RDA Championships and Regional Qualifiers hats must have been checked by an official to make sure that it is of one of the accepted standards and then tagged with an RDA hat tag.

Protective headwear constitutes a hat which meets one of the following standards:

- **British PAS 015: 2011** - provided it is BSI Kitemarked or Inspec IC Marked. **Note: PAS 015: 1998 was withdrawn on 31 December 2022 and is no longer acceptable**
- **European VG1** - provided it is BSI Kitemarked or Inspec IC marked
- **EN1384-2017** provided it has another accepted standard from this list which is BSI Kitemarked or Inspec IC marked
- American ASTM F1163: 2004a or 04a onwards provided it is SEI marked
- SNELL E2016 **Note: SNELL E2001 was withdrawn on 31 December 2022 and is no longer acceptable**

Competitors are strongly advised to check their hats regularly and to replace them if damaged or following a fall. **It is recommended that hats are replaced every 3 to 5 years depending on usage.**

<https://www.beta-uk.org/pages/safety-equipment/hats.php>

In some cases, where a standard hat is not suitable, alternative headwear can be worn provided RDA's alternative hat wear rules are followed as detailed below:

Non-standard hats (including specially made, by a reputable manufacturer, riding hats, other kite marked helmets e.g. ski, cycle, skateboard) may be assessed by a Regional or County Coach, or someone who has been approved by the Regional Coach. In the case of RDA Carriage Driving Groups, alternative hat assessment may be carried out by the Regional Driving Representative, Carriage Driving Assessor, or a suitable person appointed by them to assess hats. Anyone assessing hat suitability MUST have taken part in a BETA hat fitting workshop.

A signature of consent must be provided on the "Alternative Hat Assessment Form" by the Participant/Parent/Guardian/Carer, confirming they understand that it is a non-standard hat.

Participant and hat are to be re-assessed annually.

The hat must not be used by another participant without an assessment.

From 1st September 2022, no person should be in a carriage during an RDA Carriage Driving activity (with or without participants) without wearing an approved riding hat. The only exceptions are Sikh turban wearers and those with alternative protective headwear, approved through the Alternative Hat Form.

Religious head wear (hijabs, yarmulkes etc) may be worn providing they will not come undone or are not fixed to the head by a hard object e.g. brooch, or if they could present a danger to the participant.

In these cases, an Alternative Hat form must be completed.

Hats for volunteers:

Although it is not mandatory for volunteers to wear hats, if an RDA Volunteer chooses to do so, the hat must comply with the current standards listed above.

All coaches/volunteers must wear a hat when mounted

Body Protectors:

Body Protectors A body protector is strongly recommended in showjumping competitions. Please refer to the RDA Rule book for details.