

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Helmets for horse riding and horse-related activities



AS/NZS 3838:2006

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee CS-096, Equestrian Helmets. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 31 October 2006 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 17 November 2006.

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The following are represented on Committee CS-096:

Association of Accredited Certification Bodies
Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Conference of Principal Racing Clubs
Australian Equestrian Trade Association
Australian Harness Racing Council
Brain Foundation
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS-096, Equestrian Helmets, to supersede AS/NZS 3838:2003, *Helmets for horse riding and horse-related activities*.

In revising this Standard the Committee recognizes that more research is required in the practical application of the Dynamic Strength of Retention test contained in the previous version. Accordingly this test has been replaced by a Static Strength of Retention test. The Committee intends to review test data on the Dynamic Strength of Retention test when it becomes available and re-consider the inclusion of this test in the future.

The Dynamic Stability test has been retained, to ensure that the Standard maintains an appropriate level of protection.

The Committee has further considered the inclusion of a lateral rigidity and reduction of peak acceleration to 250g_n, but considers that there is still insufficient data available to make a decision and awaits the results of research in this area.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD.....	4
1 SCOPE.....	5
2 OBJECTIVE	5
3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.....	5
4 DEFINITIONS.....	5
5 CONSTRUCTION.....	5
6 TESTING.....	8
7 TEST REQUIREMENTS.....	9
8 MARKING	11
9 INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE AND CARE	12
APPENDICES	
A CHARACTERISTICS OF MATERIALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF PROTECTIVE HELMETS	13
B TEST FOR PERMANENCY OF MARKING.....	14
C HELMET INFORMATION.....	15

FOREWORD

Helmets which comply with this Standard are considered suitable for activities involving horses. For some activities, additional requirements may be appropriate.

There are intrinsic hazards with activities involving horses. It is recognized that it is not possible to write a protective headgear performance Standard that will result in headgear that can protect against injury or death in all accidents. It is also recognized that serious injury or death can result from both low-energy and high-energy impacts, even when protective headgear is worn. It is further recognized that protective headgear must be acceptable to the user and to the regulating associations or agencies requiring its use. Acknowledging these limitations, this Standard was developed using resources in medical, scientific, mechanical engineering, human factors and biomechanical fields.

This Standard incorporates many aspects of other recognized headgear performance Standards and draws from work done by others, where appropriate for this Standard. These Standards may be referenced. It should be noted that this Standard specifies a laboratory test of completed headgear to measure its ability to reduce head acceleration when impacting various shaped objects.

The protection provided by a helmet depends on the circumstances of the accident, the condition of the helmet and other factors. A proportion of the energy of an impact is absorbed by the helmet, thereby reducing the force of the blow sustained by the head. The structure of the helmet may be damaged in absorbing this energy, and any helmet which sustains a severe blow should be replaced even if damage is not apparent.

To achieve the performance of which it is capable and to ensure stability on the head, a helmet should be as closely fitting as possible, consistent with comfort, and it must be securely fastened, with the retaining straps under tension at all times.

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Australian/New Zealand Standard Helmets for horse riding and horse-related activities

1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for protective helmets for horse riding and horse-related activities, intended to mitigate the effects of an impact to the head. The Standard includes construction, testing and labelling requirements.

NOTE: A helmet complying with this Standard may incorporate special features designed to suit its use in specific horse-related activities.

2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to provide horse riders and persons engaged in horse-related activities with helmets that provide basic head protection and help reduce the severity of head injury from hazards associated with horse riding and horse-related activities.

3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The documents below are referred to in this Standard:

AS

- 1609 Eye protectors for motor cyclists and racing car drivers
- 2342 Development, testing and implementation of information and safety symbols and symbolic signs

AS/NZS

- 2512 Methods of testing protective helmets
- 2512.1 Method 1: Definitions and headforms
- 2512.2 Method 2: General requirements for the conditioning and preparation of test specimens and laboratory conditions
- 2512.3.1 Method 3.1: Determination of impact energy attenuation—Helmet drop test
- 2512.5.1 Method 5.1: Determination of strength of retention system—Static strength
- 2512.6 Method 6: Measurement of horizontal peripheral vision clearance
- 2512.7.1 Method 7.1: Determination of stability of protective helmets—Static stability
- 2512.7.2 Method 7.2: Determination of stability of protective helmets—Dynamic stability
- 2512.8 Method 8: Measurement of peak deflection

4 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions given in AS/NZS 2512.1 apply.

5 CONSTRUCTION

5.1 Components

The helmet shall consist of a means of attenuating impact energy and a retention system.

All components of the protective system shall be permanently attached to one another. Removable comfort pads are not part of the protective system.

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