

Jockeys Skull Caps (Equestrian Helmets)

All helmets sold in the UK have to meet the agreed European Standard which is identified with a BS or EN number (or both). The organisation tasked with developing standards in the UK is the British Standards Institute (BSI) - <http://www.bsigroup.com/en/Standards-and-Publications/About-BSI-British-Standards/>

The current Equestrian Helmet standard is **BS EN 1384:1997** and was published on 15th January 1997, although helmets made to this standard were available in shops for some 18 months before this date.

All jockeys riding under BHA Rules or in Point to Point racing must wear a helmet that reaches BS EN 1384:1997

Since 1997 a number of 'optional' standards have been created for equestrian helmets but none of these has replaced EN 1384:1997

PAS 015:1999 (Publicly Available Specification) – published on 15th June 1999
BS EN 14574:2005 – published on 28th April 2005

All European Standard must be approved by a majority of EU member states before they can be adopted and this process can be cumbersome and result in compromises being made to limit costs. As a result, more recent standards have evolved in other countries that are often considered to be superior to those mandated in Europe -

USA – ASTM F-1163 (04a- 2004) developed by a group of helmet manufacturers
Australian and New Zealand – AS/NZ 3838:2006

In addition to these, the Snell Memorial Foundation in the USA (www.smf.org/) has developed a highly regarded set of standards for helmets across a wide range of activities; include equestrian sport – **SNELL E2001**
<http://www.smf.org/standards/pdf/e01std.pdf>

The Snell E2001 standard is not mandated by any equestrian organisation in the world but is widely regarded as a gold standard in terms of helmet performance

The only helmet currently available in the UK that meets SNELL E2001, BS EN 1384:1997 and PAS 015:1999 Standards is the HS1 manufactured by Gatehouse – <http://www.gatehouserange.co.uk/>

Video footage of the HS1 testing process can be found via the Gatehouse website link to U-Tube - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEyTCidaVvE>

The Gatehouse HS1 would therefore seem to be the logical choice for any competitive rider wishing to ensure the highest level of head protection