

# 2017 Riding Hat Standards

## Overview

- Due to a change by the European Commission regarding EN1384 and BSEN1384 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 or Inspec IC mark will be acceptable, but not BSEN1384 on its own.
- This FAQ document should be read in conjunction with the BHS Approved Hat Standards for 2017 document.

## FAQs for Approved Centres, Registered Instructors 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 riding school client comes for a lesson, with the riding school instructor, and appears with their own hat. The Instructor checks the hat and it is not of the correct standard, the instructor tells the client but the client refuses to use a hat from the school and 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 the insurers have said, in this situation, the riding school should still insist the rider wears a hat up to the current standards. The reason being 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 current requirements. Where do I stand if I teach a client knowing their hat is not to the required standard?

**A:** The instructors should be checking the rider hats as part of their risk assessment and advising individuals if their hat is not to 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 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 Exam in 2017, will I need to wear a hat to the 2017 standards?

**A:** All BHS examinations are covered by the BHS third party liability insurance, therefore it is a requirement that all candidates must wear hats to the required standard. For 2017 all hats will be checked at BHS exams to ensure they meet current safety standards. Fixed peaks will not be permitted for any cross country element of an exam.

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

**A:** The hat standard requirements are exactly the same as those for the UK and will be applied to international exams. All international BHS exams are covered by the BHS third party liability insurance, therefore it is a requirement that all candidates must wear hats to the required standard.

**Q:** I am a BRC member, will the changes in hat standards affect me?

**A:** Yes. The 2017 hat standards will apply to all BRC members. Members who take part in Area Qualifiers and Championships will have their hats checked and tagged before each competition.