

Equestrian Helmet Committee



Annual Report 2010

Scope

1. To monitor the work at European - CEN level in the area of equestrian helmet standards (I.S. EN 1384 & I.S. EN 14572) and other associated standards.
2. To participate actively in Working Group 5 (Equestrian Helmets) of CEN TC 158 (Head Protection)
3. To provide CEN TC 158 WG5 with the latest research that is being undertaken by UCD in the field of Impact Testing and Lateral Crush Testing

Equestrian Helmet Committee

1. 2010 Highlights

A number of meetings were held in University College Dublin (UCD) in order to deal with the work at both National and European level. The year was dominated with European work on the two equestrian helmets , EN 1384 and EN 14572.

Since the publication of EN 14572 in 2005 , no manufacturers have produced helmets to this standard. This is very disappointing from an Irish perspective as this new standard attempted to address the safety issues related to lateral crush, and shock absorption (high and low impact energy). Experts from Ireland have been participating in the work of CEN TC158/WG5 (Head Protection ; Equestrian Helmets) since 1996. The other European helmet standard EN 1384 has not been technically improved since 1996 when it was first published.

1.1. Proposal to CEN TC158/WG5 in relation to Equestrian Helmets: the Irish National Committee submitted a detailed document in relation to proposals for amending EN 1384 and withdrawing EN 14572 in October 2010. This proposal was based on the following considerations:

- horse riders (professional/non professional) can be exposed to the same risks and hazards and irrespective of age.
- there should be no distinction between professional and non professional personal protective equipment.
- the incidence of concussion remains a worry and the need for a higher standard of helmet is a priority. (Extract from a Report by Dr Adrian McGoldrick, Chief Medical Officer , Irish Turf Club , Jan 2010)
- the medical data in relation to concussion of jockeys (15% were of concussive head injuries (1999- 2006)- Ireland/France/Britain (Paper by Forero Rueda MA/Halley/ Gilchrist 2009) indicate that existing helmets do not protect from concussion in some instances
- Annex II of the Personal Protective Directive, (1.1.2.1) ensuring highest level of protection possible for the user
- there are no helmets on the market meeting the requirements of EN14572 even though the standard was published in 2005 and concerns that tests defined in EN 14572 cannot be achieved by manufacturers
- EN1384 has not been revised technically since it was published in 1996 and state of the art, development of new technologies etc have come a long way in 14 years.

1.2. Retirement of Dr Walter Halley : Dr Halley retired as Chief Medical Officer with the Turf Club and from the work of this Technical Committee. He was committed to the safety and welfare of professional jockeys as well as those who participated recreationally . Dr. Adrian McGolderick was appointed Chief Medical Officer with the Turf Club and joined this Technical committee in 2010.

- 1.3. Petition to the European Commission :** At European Commission level, Mr Peter Downes , supported by Mr Adrian McGoldrick , petitioned for the second time the Commission on safety issues with the existing equestrian helmet standard EN 1384 and EN 14572 .

The Commission upheld the Petition and a meeting was held between the Commission Representatives, their experts and CEN TC158/WG5 Working Group. This resulted in some progress being made with a meeting being held in October 2010 of members of CEN TC158/WG5 Working Group on Equestrian Helmets.

- 1.4. Meeting with Mairead McGuinness:** Further to this a meeting took place between Mairead McGuinness, Irish MEP and the NSAI to try to advance the work on improving the safety of equestrian helmets.

2. Technical Committee Membership

The committee consists of representation from the medical profession, research, consulting engineering, universities amongst others.

Membership

Prof Michael Gilchrist (Chairman)	Mechanical Engineering Dept, UCD
Dr Adrian McGoldrick	Turf Club Medical Officer
Mr Manuel A Forero Rueda	Mechanical Engineering Dept, UCD
Mr Ciaran Costello	Civil Engineer /Maxpro
Consultants	
Mr Peter Downes	Horse Breeder/ User
Mr Robert Downes	Engineer / User
Ms Elizabeth O'Ferrall	NSAI Technical Secretary

3. National Meetings

- 3.1** The Equestrian Helmet Committee held a number of meetings in 2010:

March 2010

September 2010

- 3.2** Representatives of the Equestrian Committee met with Mr Elod Dudas, DG Enterprise, European Commission and their Technical Expert in October 2010.

- 3.3** Ms Elizabeth O'Ferrall, NSAI met with Ms Mairead McGuinness, MEP in October 2010.

4. International Meetings

June 2010 CEN TC158 Plenary Meeting , Berlin (2 Irish participants)
October 2010 CEN TC158/WG5 Equestrian Helmets Meeting, London (4 Irish participants)

A number of meetings took place at European level. Mr Peter Downes and Ms Elizabeth O'Ferrall attended the Plenary Meeting of CEN TC158 in Berlin to highlight concerns in relation to the safety of Equestrian helmets .

A meeting of CEN TC158/WG5 took place in BSI Headquarters on equestrian helmets and the 2 standards , EN 1384 and EN 14572. 4 Irish experts participated in this meetings, Mr. Manuel A Forero Rueda, Mr Ciaran Costello, Mr Peter Downes and Ms Elizabeth O'Ferrall. Some progress was made and proposals were sought from the attending delegates in relation to amendments to the equestrian helmet standards. Ireland submitted their proposals in late October 2010.