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Standard Specification for Helmets Used in Recreational Roller Skating[1]

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INTRODUCTION

It has been recognized for more than a decade that the functional requirements of helmets for recreational roller skating and cycling are essentially identical. The U.S. national governing bodies of competitive cycling and roller skating have required that helmets meeting ANSI, Snell, or ASTM bicycle helmet standards be used in their respective sports and would like to continue this practice, as they have stated to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.[2]

As recognized in the preceding proposal, helmets meeting Specification F 1447 are not suitable for activities in which helmets may be subjected to multiple impacts, as happens in roller hockey and trick roller skating, hence their use in such sports is specifically excluded.

One argument that has been raised in the past, but never with any supporting evidence, is that roller skaters fall on the backs of their heads more often than cyclists, and therefore, need better protection there. In fact, cyclists also frequently fall on the backs of their heads. For example, a 1994 study of bicycle helmets involved in accidents reported that 26 % showed evidence of impact on the back of the helmet.[3]

More important, bicycle helmets have demonstrated rather good protection in backward falls of both cyclists and roller skaters. Based on the substantial reduction in head injuries reported to the governing bodies of competitive roller skating following the adoption of the above helmet standards, we believe that the ASTM bicycle helmet standard should be recognized as being applicable to roller skating.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers performance requirements for helmets manufactured for use by adult or junior recreational roller skaters. This specification recognizes the desirability of lightweight construction and ventilation; however, it is a performance standard and is not intended to restrict design.

1.2 All testing and requirements of this specification shall be in accordance with Test Methods F 1446, except where noted herein.

1.3 *Partial utilization of this specification is prohibited. Any statement of compliance with this specification shall be a certification that the product meets all of the requirements of the specification in their entirety. A product that fails to meet any one of the requirements of this specification is considered to have failed the specification, and shall not be sold with any indication that it meets parts of the specification.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

F 1446 Test Methods for Equipment and Procedures Used in Evaluating the Performance Characteristics of Protective Headgear[4]

F 1447 Specification for Protective Headgear Used in Bicycling[4]

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *in-lines, n*—roller skates with all wheels on each skate arranged along a single longitudinal line.

3.1.2 *quads, n*—roller skates with four wheels on each skate arranged in a rectangular pattern.

3.1.3 *recreational roller skating, n*—skating horizontally using quads or in-lines, including speed skating but not roller

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment, Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.53 on Headgear and Helmets.

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[2] See letters to the Consumer Products Safety Commission: Lisa Voight, Executive Director, U.S. Cycling Federation (Sept. 27, 1994); Uwe Brockmann, Helmet Representative, International In-line Skating Association (Oct. 26, 1994); and Charles Wahlig, ASTM Helmet Representative, U.S. Amateur Confederation of Rollerskating (Oct. 24, 1994).

[3] Fisher, D., and Stern, T., "Results of a Study Done on 1100 Bicycle Helmets Involved in Accidents," Bell Sports Inc., Cerritos, CA, 1994.

[4] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.07.