



Standard Specification for Protective Headgear Used in Horse Sports and Horseback Riding¹

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INTRODUCTION

Horse sports and horseback riding are sports with intrinsic hazards. 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 specification was developed using resources in medical, scientific, mechanical engineering, human factors, and biomechanical fields.

This specification incorporates many aspects of other recognized headgear performance standards. This specification draws from work done by others where appropriate for this specification. These standards may be referenced. It should be noted that this specification specifies a laboratory test of completed headgear to measure its ability to reduce head acceleration when impacting various shaped objects. It is known that headgear that performs well under this specification will mitigate head injury in actual use within its design limits.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers minimum performance criteria and describes test methods for protective headgear for use in horse sports and horseback riding.

1.2 It is not the intention of this specification to bar from consideration materials of improved quality or performance not known at the time of development of this specification.

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

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Document

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

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.

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F 1446 Test Methods for Equipment and Procedures Used in Evaluating the Performance Characteristics of Protective Headgear²

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—The terms used in this specification are defined in accordance with Test Methods F 1446.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *cradle, n*—the headband or other head-fitting device and those internal parts of the headgear in contact with the head.

3.2.2 *drawlace, n*—a lace used for making adjustments to the fit of the cradle on the wearer's head.

4. Headforms

4.1 Headforms to be used in this specification are as specified in Section 6 of Test Methods F 1446. The appropriate size headform shall be selected (see 3.1.7 of Test Methods F 1446) for the helmet to be tested.

5. Anvils and Impact Velocities

5.1 Anvils to be used for impact tests in this specification are the flat anvil described in 16.4.1 and Fig. 7 of Test Methods F 1446, and the equestrian hazard anvil described in Fig. 1 of

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.07.