

**Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI)
International Parachuting Commission (IPC)**

PROTECTIVE HEADWEAR SURVEY REPORT

2007



IPC TECHNICAL AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

1 BACKGROUND AND AIM OF SURVEY

During 2007 the matter of the requirement for 'Protective Headwear' arose, in the context of this being a condition for entry in a competition (an FAI First Category Event).

Some debate arose as to what constituted 'Protective Headwear' and what regulations exist in various countries, as law and/or as regulation by the National Sport Parachuting Organisation or Association.

The IPC's Technical & Safety Committee undertook to collect information on this matter, to:

- 1 Make countries aware of what others do and how they regulate;**
- 2 Help set standards based on experience and requirements of others;**
- 3 Act as a guide for skydivers considering visiting other countries.**

2 RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The results of the survey are presented

31 countries supplied information.

The information supplied was on the basis of:

- 1 Requirements under national law (government regulations)**
- 2 Requirements of the National Sports Parachuting Organisation**

Information was sought also on the basis of:

- A Type of Jumper**
- B Parachuting disciplines**

An examination of the information supplied shows quite wide difference in the requirements of the various National Sport Parachuting Organisations.

It is also apparent that National Sport Parachuting Organisations are to the fore in safety regulation as regards headwear, in that while 27 of the 31 responding countries have requirements set down by their NSPOs, only 13 have requirements in law. In some instances the national law-making authority defers to the NSPO in the area of protective headwear use.

It is hoped that the survey results may be of interest and of some help, especially to those who may review their requirements in this area, or who may wish to set a standard where none already exists.

Finally, thanks to those who responded to this survey by supplying information. Their help is sincerely appreciated.

Liam McNulty

**Technical & Safety Committee
International Parachuting Commission, FAI**

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Table 1, Responses

COUNTRY	Protective Headwear required by Para. Organisation		Protective Headwear required by Law	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Argentina	Yes		Yes	
Australia	Yes			No
Austria		No	Yes	
Bulgaria	Yes			No
Canada	Yes			
Czech Republic	Yes			No
Denmark	Yes			No
Estonia	Yes			No
Finland	Yes			No
France	Yes			No
Germany	Yes		Yes	
Hong Kong, China	Yes			No
Hungary	Yes		Yes	
Italy	Yes		Yes	
Kazakhstan	Yes		Yes	
Kenya	Yes		Yes	
Latvia	Yes		Yes	
Netherlands	Yes			No
New Zealand	Yes		Yes	
Norway	Yes			No
Poland		No		No
Saudi Arabia	Yes		Yes	
Serbia		No	Yes	
Slovakia	Yes			No
South Africa	Yes			No
Spain	Yes			No
Sweden	Yes		Yes	
Switzerland	Yes			No
United Kingdom	Yes		Yes	
Uruguay				No
USA	Yes			No
31 countries	27	3	13	17

Of the 31 responding countries

Sport Parachuting Organisation regulations

27 countries have regulations regarding the use of Protective Headwear

2 countries do not have regulations

1 country did not indicate

National Government regulations

13 countries have legal regulation regarding the use of Protective Headwear

17 countries do not have government regulation

1 country did not indicate

In one country, Bulgaria, the government has given authority to regulate parachuting to the NAC.

In three countries, Latvia, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the government requirements are exactly as those of the National Sports Parachute Association.

Table 2, National Parachuting Organisations – Requirements for Jumper Categories

COUNTRY	Note No	National Parachuting/Skydiving Organisation							
		Static Line IAD/JAD	AFF Student	Tandem Student	Freefall to 25 jumps	Intermediate 26 - 250 jumps	Expert 250 + jumps	Tandem Master	AFF Jumpmaster
Argentina	1	Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather hat	Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather hat	Leather hat	See note
Australia	2	Hard shell	Hard shell	None reqd.	Hard shell	Hard shell	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.
Austria	3	Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather hat	Hard shell	Leather hat	Full-face	Leather hat	Fullface
Bulgaria		Leather hat	Hard shell	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	None reqd.	Hard shell	Hard shell
Canada	4	Shock-absorbing protective headgear for all these categories							
Czech Republic		Hard shell	Hard shell	None reqd.	Hard shell	Leather hat	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.
Denmark		Hard shell	Hard shell	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.
Estonia	5	Hard shell, cloth or leather hat for these categories							
Finland	6	Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather hat	Cloth or Leather	Cloth or Leather	Cloth or Leather	None reqd.	None reqd.
France		Hard shell	Hard shell	None reqd.	Any type	Any type	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.
Germany	7	Hard shell	Hard shell	Cloth or Leather	For all skydiving protective headwear must be worn - type not specified				
Hong Kong, China	8	Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather hat	Hard shell	Leather or hard shell	Any type	Leather hat	Any type
Hungary		Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat
Italy		Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather hat	Hard shell	Hard shell	Hard shell	Hard shell	Hard shell
Kazakhstan		Hard shell	Hard shell	Cloth hat	Hard shell	Leather or hard shell	Leather or hard shell	Leather or hard shell	Leather or hard shell
Kenya		Hard shell or leather hat in all cases							
Latvia		Hard shell	Hard shell	Cloth or Leather	Any type	Any type	Any type	Any type	Any type
Netherlands	9	Hard shell	Hard shell	None reqd.	Hard shell	Adequate protection	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.
New Zealand		Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather hat	Hard shell	Leather hat	None reqd.	Leather hat	None reqd.
Norway	10	Hard shell	Hard shell	Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather or hard shell	Leather or hard shell	Leather hat	Hard shell
Poland		No regulation by parachuting organisation regarding wearing of headgear							
Saudi Arabia		Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather hat	Hard shell	Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather or hard shell	Leather or hard shell
Serbia		No regulation by parachuting organisation regarding wearing of headgear							
Slovakia		Not specified							
South Africa		Hard shell	Hard shell	None reqd.	Hard shell	Hard shell	Cloth or Leather	None reqd.	None reqd.
Spain	11	Hard shell	Hard shell	None reqd.	Any type	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.
Sweden	12	Hard shell	Hard shell	Cloth hat	Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat
Switzerland	13	Hard shell	Hard shell	None reqd.	Hard shell or Leather	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.
United Kingdom	14	Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather hat	Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather or hard shell	Hard shell	Leather or hard shell
Uruguay		No regulation by parachuting organisation regarding wearing of headgear							
USA	15	Hard shell	Hard shell	None reqd.	Hard shell	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.	None reqd.
31 countries									

Notes

Country	Note	Details
Argentina	1	We don't require any special helmet or protective headwear for skydivers, we only advise that it must be used according to the jump.
Australia	2	Hard shell helmet must be used by jumpers, other than Tandem, up to 'C' Licence only – 100 jumps.
Austria	3	The use of headwear is a must, by the laws of the Austrian government. No type of headwear is specified. The types of headwear noted are those most commonly used (not actually required) in Austria. Choice is that of the jumper but in the case of a student the Instructor has the right to decide on type. In recent years expert jumpers use full-face helmets rather than leather hats.
Canada	4	Jumpers using headwear must use 'shock-absorbing' protective headwear. This requirement does not apply to holders of 'D' Class Certs of Proficiency.
Estonia	5	Headgear is required for students, A, B, C Certificate jumpers. We use IPC Certificate system. Any kind of headgear is OK. D cert jumper (at least 500 jumps) can jump without headgear.
Finland	6	Protective headwear is required if the jumper has less than 500 jumps. Nowadays most non-student skydivers use hard shell helmets, even if not required by regulations.
Germany	7	For each kind of skydiving activity protective headwear must be worn. The type of headwear is not regulated.
Hong Kong, China	8	Our government only requires industrial construction works to have safety regulations. Most of the National sport organizations make their rules and regulations or observe international organisations' rules and regulations. From time to time we will review the rules and regulations to keep up with the rest of the international organizations.
Netherlands	9	For Intermediate skydivers (26–250 freefalls) adequate protection is required.

Norway	10	Intermediate and Expert Skydivers – the local head Instructor applies the local rules and regulations, as to whether the jumper wears a leather hat or hard shell. You can hardly finding anyone jumping frap hats in Norway these days, except related to Tandems.
Spain	11	There is no industry or regulatory specification regarding the use of headwear.
Sweden	12	Expert skydiver ‘B’ Licence – free to choose type of headwear.
Switzerland	13	It is recommended that a tandem student use headwear.
United Kingdom	14	Below 200 jumps – hard helmet; above 200 jumps, leather hat or hard helmet
USA	15	Tandem students - frap hats (leather hat) are recommended but not required.

Table 3. National Sport Parachute Organisations, Requirements by Parachuting Disciplines

COUNTRY	Notes in text	National Parachuting/Skydiving Organisation									
		Formation Skydiving	Canopy Formation	Canopy Piloting	Freefall Style	Accuracy Landing	Para Ski	Wingsuit Flying	Freestyle	Artistic Events	Vertical RW
Argentina		We don't require any special helmet or protective headwear for skydivers, we only advise that it must be used according to the jump									
Australia		No requirement for protective headwear on a disciplines basis									
Austria	Note 21	Full face	Cloth hat	Full face	Hard shell	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Fullface	Leather hat	Full face
Bulgaria	Note 22	Protective headwear required					not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	Headwear reqd.
Canada		No requirement for protective headwear on a disciplines basis									
Czech Republic		No requirement for protective headwear on a disciplines basis									
Denmark		No requirement for protective headwear on a disciplines basis									
Estonia		Some type of protective headwear required for all parachuting disciplines									
Finland		No requirement for protective headwear on a disciplines basis									
France		Some type of protective headwear required for all parachuting disciplines									
Germany		Some type of protective headwear required for all parachuting disciplines - there is no regulation as to the type.									
Hong Kong, China		Leather or Hard shell	not applicable	Leather hat	Leather hat	not applicable	not applicable	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	
Hungary		Hard shell	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Hard shell	Hard shell	
Italy		Hard shell	Hard shell	Hard shell	Hard shell	Leather hat	Hard shell	Hard shell	Hard shell	Hard shell	
Kazakhstan		Hard shell	Cloth hat	Hard shell	Any type	Leather hat		Hard shell	Hard shell	Hard shell	
Kenya		Leather hat for all disciplines									
Latvia		Protective headwear required in all disciplines - any type may be used									
Netherlands	Note 23	No requirement for protective headwear on a disciplines basis - except for Freely jumps, where a Hard shell must be worn								Hard shell	Hard shell
New Zealand	Note 24	No requirement for protective headwear on a disciplines basis									
Norway		Hard shell or leather hat required in all disciplines									
Poland		No regulations for protective headwear laid down by Sport Parachuting Organisation									
Saudi Arabia		Hard shell required for all disciplines									
Serbia		No regulations for protective headwear laid down by Sport Parachuting Organisation									
Slovakia	Note 25	Yes	None reqd.	None reqd.	Yes	None reqd.	None reqd.	Yes	Yes	Yes	
South Africa		No regulation		Hard shell	No regulation requiring protective headwear for these disciplines					Hard shell	Hard shell
Spain		Any type of protective headwear for these disciplines									
Sweden		Hard shell	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Leather hat	Hard shell	Hard shell	
Switzerland		No requirement for protective headwear on a disciplines basis									
United Kingdom	Note 26	Protective headwear required in all disciplines - below 200 jumps, Hard shell - above 200 jumps, Hard shell or Leather hat									
Uruguay		No regulations for protective headwear laid down by Sport Parachuting Organisation									
USA		No requirement for protective headwear on a disciplines basis									
31 countries											

Notes

Country	Note	Details
Austria	21	The use of headwear is a must, by the laws of the Austrian government. No type of headwear is specified. The types of headwear noted are those most commonly used (not actually required) in Austria. Choice is that of the jumper but in the case of a student the Instructor has the right to decide on type. In recent years expert jumpers use full-face helmets rather than leather hats.
Bulgaria	22	Types of headwear required not specified.
Netherlands	23	In Artistic disciplines jumpers are required to wear hard shell for freely jumps only.
New Zealand	24	Use of protective headwear for Vertical RW is at the discretion of the Chief Safety Officer. No specific standard has been set for protective headwear in New Zealand; New Zealand Parachute Industries Association recognises commercially manufactured and available headwear rather than approving on a case by case.
Slovak Republic	25	Types of headwear required not specified for various disciplines.
United Kingdom	26	Below 200 jumps – hard helmet; above 200 jumps, leather hat or hard helmet

Table 4, National Law Requirements & delegation of authority

Country	Regulation/Law – Delegation of Authority
Argentina	Hard shell required for Static Line/IAD/JAD, AFF and tandem students
Austria	It is a requirement by law to use headwear for parachuting in Austria. Type of headwear is not specified.
Bulgaria	Government does not regulate skydiving. Bulgarian NAC is authorized to issue and enforce rules.
Germany	Legal requirements only ask for wearing of protective headwear for skydiving activities, but no type or kind is specified.
Hungary	The use of a leather hat is required by all skydivers and in all disciplines.
Italy	The rules are made by the Italian Ministry of transport (ENAC) and the Italian NAC and Italian parachute federation follow these rules. The use of a hard shell helmet is required for all skydivers, in all disciplines, with the exceptions of Tandem student category and Accuracy Landing discipline. In these two instances a leather hat must be worn.
Kenya	The use of a leather hat is required by all skydivers and in all disciplines.
Latvia	Government regulations are exactly as those of the National Sport Parachuting Organisation (see Tables 2 and 3).
New Zealand	Static Line/IAD/JAD and AFF students must wear a hard shell. Tandem students must wear protective headwear but no type is specified. Tandem master must wear protective headwear but no type is specified. There are no requirements for other categories of jumpers or for any discipline.
Norway	Comment concerning the Norwegian Government's lack of detailed specification:- The Norwegian CAA has approved the safety system of the Parachute section, Norwegian Air Sports Federation, so indirectly you may say that the CAA requires protective headwear, without having any detailed regulation.
Saudi Arabia	Government regulations specify a hard shell for all categories of skydiver and for all disciplines.
Serbia	Government regulations require hard shell for Static Line/IAD/JAD, AFF and Freefall students (up to 25 freefalls). There is no regulation for any other category or for any disciplines.
Sweden	Government regulations are exactly as those of the Swedish Parachute Association (See Tables 2 and 3)
United Kingdom	Government regulations are exactly as those of the British Parachute Association.
Uruguay	Government regulations require the use of protective headwear for all skydivers, in all disciplines. No type or types of headwear are specified.