

Specification for Helmets for Hurling and Camogie Players

nsai

National Standards Authority of Ireland

Irish Standard
I.S. 355:2006



Background to I.S. 355:2006 Specification for Helmets for Hurling and Camogie Players

This standard has been drawn up by the Hurling and Camogie Helmet Committee in conjunction with its Technical Committee in response to a requirement by Cumann Lúthcleas Gael and Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael and other interested parties.

The intention of helmets is to reduce the risk of injury to that skull and the part of the face surrounded by the protector that may occur in play or training. The protective function is such that the force from impacts against the protector is distributed and damped and the penetration of objects is counteracted.

Helmets for hurling and camogie players shall comprise of a head protector and an associated face protector. This standard sets out minimum requirements to meet performance criteria and outlines the associated test methods. The wearing of an approved helmet will not be a guarantee against all possible injuries, however, the risk of serious injuries occurring will be substantially reduced. The intent is to reduce the risk of injury to the head without compromising the form or appeal of the game.

This standard sets out minimum requirements to meet performance criteria and outlines the associated test methods

Requirements and the corresponding methods of test, where appropriate are given for the following:

- Construction
- Protected area
- Shock absorbing properties
- Sliotar impact resistance
- Hurley impact resistance
- Penetration
- Field of vision
- Marking and information

Helmets do not afford any protection from neck, spinal, or ear injuries.

Legislation Governing Helmets

Sports helmets are categorised as "Head Protection" under the Personal Protective Equipment Directive 89/686/EEC PPE Directive and therefore must comply with the requirements outlined in ANNEX II , Basic Health and Safety Requirements.

PPE protects its intended user against one or more hazards. Exposure to hazards may lead to injury. Under the Directive the seriousness of these injuries for helmets has been categorised as a level/category II .

Helmets that conform to the PPE Directive will be marked with the EC mark (CE mark).

The national standard for hurling and camogie helmets is I.S. 355:2006. Helmets that conform to this standard will be clearly marked stating conformance to I.S.355:2006.

Market Surveillance

The Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs are the body who monitor new and existing products on the market and their compliance with legislation.

Manufacturers must meet the requirements of the PPE Directive and applicable national standards in relation to helmets. Furthermore they must take into consideration the requirements laid down in the General Products Safety Directive.

'Safe product' shall mean any product which, under normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use including duration and, where applicable, putting into service, installation and maintenance requirements, does not present any risk or only the minimum risks compatible with the product's use, considered to be acceptable and consistent with a high level of protection for the safety and health of persons.

Article 3(1) of the General Products Safety Directive states that producers shall be obliged to place only safe products on the market.

A product shall be presumed safe as far as the risks and risk categories covered by relevant national standards are concerned when it conforms to voluntary national standards transposing European standards, the references of which have been published by the Commission in the Official Journal of the European Communities in accordance with Article 4. The Member States shall publish the references of such national standards.

Article 5(2) of the General Products Safety Directive states that Distributors shall be required to act with due care to help to ensure compliance with the applicable safety requirements, in particular by not supplying products which they know or should have presumed on the basis of the information in their possession and as professionals, do not comply with the requirements. Moreover within the of their respective activities, they shall participate in monitoring the safety the safety of products placed on the market.....

The definition of "distributor" under the GPSD Regulations is defined as "any professional the supply chain whose activity does not affect the safety properties of a product".

Manufacturer's Requirements

Before placing a helmet on the market, the manufacturer or his authorised representative established in the community shall assemble the technical documentation referred to in Annex III of the PPE Directive so that, if necessary, be submitted to the competent authorities for examination. The helmet must meet all the essential health and safety requirements specified in Annex II of the Directive

Where there is in existence a harmonised standard or indigenous standard, (in this instance I.S. 355) the manufacturer or his authorised representative must show conformity to the standard.

The manufacturer or his authorised representative must attach the **EC Mark (CE Mark)** to the helmet and its packaging so as to be visible, legible and indelible throughout the foreseeable useful life of the helmet. The EC mark must have the letters "CE" mark affixed.

The manufacturer must also mark the helmet externally stating conformance to "I.S. 355:2006".

Cumann Lúthcleas Gael and Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael Requirements

Any player who is under 21 years of age (Cumann Lúthcleas Gael) and under 18 years of age (Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael) will be obliged to wear an approved helmet with facial protection in all games and training to take immediate effect from May 1st 2006.

Approved helmets are those helmets that meet the requirements of Annex II or the PPE Directive and I.S. 355:2006. Helmets including faceguards should not be modified in any manner or form.

All players are strongly advised to wear helmets that comply with the PPE Directive (CE marked) and conform to I.S. 355:2006.

Committee Members (Hurling & Camogie Helmet Committee & Technical Committee)

The Committee is composed of the following:

Dr Adrian Murtagh (Chairman)	NUI, Galway & (T.C)
Dr Keith Bryan,	CIT, Cork & (T.C)
Mr Paul Fortune,	NCAD, Dublin & (T.C)
Mr Tom Beakey,	Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs
Mr Victor Morgan,	Mycro Sports
Mr Stephen Murphy,	Levitat, Cork
Mr John Molloy	Hurling Participation Group
Mr Pat Daly	Cumann Lúthcleas Gael
Ms Sheila Wallace	Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael
Ms Elizabeth O Ferrall	NSAI & (T.C)