

Equestrian Trade update – Claire Williams

It has been a challenging 6 months in the trade with many experiencing real challenges in business due to the uncertainty surrounding Brexit and a lack of willingness from overseas companies to commit to orders until clarity is obtained. Stock piling...

Safety – as is usual I update on the situation of safety equipment.

On the hat front and specifically the EN1384, we have had no progress mainly due to the Convener of the working group managed by BSI as the secretariat having stepped down. We are in the process of obtaining a new convener which will mean the draft standard revised at the beginning of this year to replicate much of what is in the PAS015 can be progressed.

The FEI published new hat guidelines specifying all hats in FEI competitions required a quality mark – i.e. Kitemark in the UK and then at the recent General Assembly also reinforced their stance on safety by requiring protective headwear in all competition.

On the body protector front the new 2018 standard is well settled and disciplines have agreed to run the 2009 and 2018 standards parallel until 2024.

We are however now in the process of working on an EU standard for **equestrian airvests** which will be included within the EN13158 body protector standard. We have a lot of input from the motorcycle airvest manufacturers, coming as all but one of the existing garments on the market do from the motorcycle industry. We are focusing the standard however on being relevant to equestrian rather than motorcycle falls and accidents. Important to maintain our input into this work and Standards body in Brussels has confirmed the place around the table for the UK experts regardless of the deal status of Brexit.

Our original thoughts were that we would complete this early in 2020, judging however from the last two day meeting and the amount of debate, the time frame is likely to be extended.

In response to requests from the sector, we are currently developing an accreditation scheme for **equine bedding** to enable producers across the range of bedding risk assess for NOPS and thereby reduce the risk of this occurring in bedding. We have not had any issues to date, but the professional sector is becoming more aware of the impact that positives from banned substances of all types can have on their businesses and are now demanding assurances from suppliers of bedding to match those offered to them by NOPS accredited Feed suppliers.

Finalising the terms of the scheme and will be launching early next year.

In **our own NOPS scheme** and reflecting changes to the FEI's EPSL we are adding the Cannabinoids into our list of NOPS – specifically Cannabidiol, CBDA and THC. This will reduce the use of hemp oil (from plant rather than seed sources) and potentially hemp bedding. Psychotic action – THC.

BETA National Equestrian Survey – reported in the summer

We will be using the same panel and running another series of research next year as a follow up so if there are any burning questions or additional data you feel would be useful on Equestrian GB – economic or socio economic in nature – contact us <http://www.beta-uk.org/pages/contact-us.php>