

British Equestrian Trade Association

Trade update

Like in all spheres of life, the equestrian manufacturing sector is seeing increases in production costs across the board. Not only are the energy costs impacting heavily on all parts of the manufacturing process, but the raw material costs due to the war in the Ukraine are continuing to show increases of in excess of 50% at best and more at worst. This will inevitably impact on feed and supplement pricing, but also more broadly other sectors of production.

Shipping costs have started to drop slightly, but production overseas, particularly in India and China are still facing challenges in production with Autumn stock expected to be delayed.

UK Manufacturers are however catching up on the back log created last year.

On the safety front, there seems to have been some confusion caused by the wording used in some of the discipline rules judging by some questions regarding the PAS015 standard. This has been interpreted by some that the PAS015 standard as a whole is being changed for next year- please rest assured that the PAS015 2011 will continue to be a valid standard for competition and if riders are using the 1998 version for hacking or unaffiliated competition there is NO compulsion to change.

Standards updates

The EN1384 Hat standard has been revised and is about to enter the last step of the standardisation process which is being published for the formal vote. The time frame is still uncertain due to the unavailability of a health and safety consultant who would normally have to give their approval of the final draft before voting. Assuming a final positive assessment is obtained the formal vote opens two months after the final draft document is submitted. The ballot is open for two months and although the deadline for submission to voting is 1 July, it is likely to miss this deadline due to consultant availability and the back log of standards. Although publication could therefore be as early as January 2023 this is felt to be optimistic at best and unlikely at worst. After publication, the standard is then passed to the EC as a candidate for harmonisation. If they agree with the HAS consultant's assessment they can publish the standard in the Official Journal of the EU. This last step is out of our control and has no set timeline or deadline.

Airvest Standard

BETA sits alongside several of our members on the working group creating the new Equestrian Airvest standard. This will be incorporated into the EN13158 with the body protector standard becoming Part 1, the Airvest standard being Part 2 and the hybrid (incorporating a body protector and air into one garment) forming part 3. Whilst part 2 has been completed, the standard will not move forward to the next stage until part 3 is

completed. The work which started in 2020 is not expected to be completed until 2023. At this stage, Part 1 will also be due to start the process of revision although this process normally takes up to 4 years.

BETA Accident recording database

A reminder of the Rider Accident & Equipment Reporting Form that was launched last year to collect and record information relating to accidents and injuries around horses, whether riding or handling. The form can be accessed via a web link or by QR code, which we encourage retailers to display in store and draw to the attention of anyone requiring safety equipment as a result of an accident.

We also have been distributing credit card sized cards to some of the disciplines at competitions and are available to retailers for distribution in store.

The QR code is quick to scan from a phone, helping to make it more accessible to busy riders. The form is also easy fill in and allows BETA to collect additional information surrounding accidents to help inform design and protection development of safety equipment moving forward. A better understanding of what happens to hats and body protectors during an accident is key to being able to both design better and safer equipment as well as feeding into the safety standards that determine how these garments perform.

The data collected through this questionnaire will provide invaluable insights contributing to this understanding, and help us, along with our trade members, continue to innovate in the space to help keep riders across all sports safer.