
S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

1980 No. 1279

ROAD TRAFFIC

**The Motor Cycles (Protective Helmets)
Regulations 1980**

Made - - - - 22nd August 1980

Laid before Parliament 29th August 1980

Coming into Operation. 20th September 1980

The Minister of Transport, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 32 and 33 of the Road Traffic Act 1972(a) and now vested in him (b), and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with the provisions of section 199(2) of the said Act of 1972, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. These Regulations shall come into operation on 20th September 1980 and may be cited as the Motor Cycles (Protective Helmets) Regulations 1980.

2. The Regulations specified in Schedule 1 to these Regulations are hereby revoked.

3. In these Regulations a reference to a numbered Regulation or Schedule is a reference to the Regulation or Schedule bearing that number in these Regulations.

4.—(1) Save as provided in paragraph (2) below, every person driving or riding (otherwise than in a side-car) on a motor bicycle when on a road shall wear protective headgear.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) above shall apply to any person driving or riding on a motor bicycle if—

- (a) it is a mowing machine;
- (b) it is for the time being propelled by a person on foot; or
- (c) he is a follower of the Sikh religion while he is wearing a turban.

(3) In this Regulation:—

“motor bicycle” means a two wheeled motor cycle, whether having a side-car attached thereto or not, and for the purposes of this definition any wheels of a motor cycle shall, if the distance between the centres of the areas of contact between such wheels and the road surface is less than 460 millimetres, be counted as one wheel; and

(a) 1972 c. 20; section 32 has been amended by the Motor-Cycle Crash Helmets (Religious Exemption) Act 1976 c. 62, and section 33 has been subject to amendments which are not relevant to these regulations.

(b) S.I. 1979/571.

“protective headgear” means headgear which—

(a) is either—

- (i) a helmet bearing a marking applied by its manufacturer indicating compliance with the specifications contained in one of the British Standards mentioned in Schedule 2 (whether or not as modified by any amendment), or
 - (ii) a helmet of a type manufactured for use by persons on motor cycles which by virtue of its shape, material and construction could reasonably be expected to afford to persons on motor bicycles a degree of protection from injury in the event of an accident similar to or greater than that provided by a helmet of a type prescribed by Regulation 5; and
- (b) if worn with a chin cup attached to or held in position by a strap or other fastening provided on the helmet, is provided with an additional strap or other fastening (to be fastened under the wearer’s jaw) for securing the helmet firmly to the head of the wearer; and
- (c) is securely fastened to the head of the wearer by means of the straps or other fastening provided on the headgear for that purpose.

5.—(1) The types of helmet hereby prescribed as types of helmet recommended as affording protection to persons on or in motor cycles from injury in the event of an accident are—

(a) until 1st January 1982 helmets which as respects their shape, construction and other qualities—

(i) conform—

- (a) in the case of a helmet manufactured before 1st March 1975, with any one of the British Standards mentioned in items 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Schedule 2,
- (b) in the case of a helmet manufactured on or after 1st March 1975 but before 2nd February 1977 with any one of the British Standards mentioned in items 2, 3, 4 and 5 in Schedule 2,
- (c) in the case of a helmet manufactured on or after 2nd February 1977 but before 1st July 1977 with any one of the British Standards mentioned in items 3, 5 and 6 in Schedule 2,
- (d) in the case of a helmet manufactured on or after 1st July 1977 but before 1st October 1980 with any one of the British Standards mentioned in items 5, 6, 7 and 8 in Schedule 2,
- (e) in the case of a helmet manufactured on or after 1st October 1980 with one of the British Standards mentioned in items 7 and 8 in Schedule 2, and

(ii) in the case of any helmet, is marked with the number of the British Standard with which it conforms and the certification mark of the British Standards Institution (whether or not it is required to be so marked by the British Standard in point);

(b) on and after 1st January 1982 helmets which as respects their shape, construction and other qualities—

(i) conform with one of the British Standards mentioned in items 5, 6, 7 and 8 in Schedule 2, and

- (ii) are marked with the number of the British Standard with which they conform and the certification mark of the British Standards Institution (whether or not they are required to be so marked by the British Standard in point).

(2) A reference in paragraph (1) above to a helmet which, as respects its shape, construction and other qualities, conforms with one of the British Standards mentioned in an item in Schedule 2 is a reference to a helmet which so conforms with one of those British Standards subject to such (if any) of the amendments to the relevant Standard mentioned in the relevant item as had effect at the time of the manufacture of the helmet.

6. Nothing in Regulation 5(1) shall be taken to authorise any person to apply any number or mark referred to therein in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968(a).

22nd August 1980.

Peter Baldwin,
Permanent Secretary, for
Minister of Transport.

SCHEDULE 1
REGULATIONS REVOKED

Title	Year and number
The Motor Cycles (Wearing of Helmets) Regulations 1973.	1973/180.
The Motor Cycles (Protective Helmets) Regulations 1974.	1974/2000.
The Motor Cycles (Protective Helmets) (Amendment) Regulations 1976.	1976/2241.
The Motor Cycles (Protective Helmets) (Amendment) Regulations 1977.	1977/128.
The Motor Cycles (Wearing of Helmets) (Amendment) Regulations 1977.	1977/129.

SCHEDULE 2
BRITISH STANDARDS

1. British Standard 2001: 1956 as amended by the following Amendment Slips:—

<i>Number</i>	<i>Date of Publication</i>
1	11th January 1957.
2	23rd November 1959.
3	27th February 1962.
4	11th June 1964.
5	13th March 1968.
6	18th February 1972.

2. British Standard 1869: 1960 as amended by the following Amendment Slips:—

<i>Number</i>	<i>Date of Publication</i>
1	29th May 1963.
4	3rd December 1965.
5	13th March 1968.
6	10th August 1971.
7	3rd January 1972.
8	15th May 1973.
9	1st February 1974.
10	2nd September 1974.
11	1st March 1975.

3. British Standard 2495: 1960 as amended by the following Amendment Slips:—

<i>Number</i>	<i>Date of Publication</i>
1	29th May 1963.
2	22nd February 1965.
3	7th December 1965.
4	22nd July 1966.
5	10th August 1971.
6	3rd January 1972.
7	1st February 1974.
8	1st March 1975.

4. British Standard 2001: 1972 as amended by the following Amendment Slips:—

<i>Number</i>	<i>Date of Publication</i>
1	12th December 1972.
2	26th January 1973.
3	1st February 1974.
4	2nd September 1974.
5	1st March 1975.

5. British Standard 5361: 1976

6. British Standard 2495: 1977

7. British Standard 5361: 1976 as amended by the following Amendment Slips:—

<i>Number</i>	<i>Date of Publication</i>
1	30th September 1977.
2	31st August 1978.
3	31st August 1979.
4	29th February 1980.

8. British Standard 2495: 1977 as amended by the following Amendment Slips:—

<i>Number</i>	<i>Date of Publication</i>
1	30th September 1977.
2	31st August 1978.
3	31st August 1979.
4	29th February 1980.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

1. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 32 of the Road Traffic Act 1972, the Minister of Transport, by these Regulations, requires every person driving or riding (otherwise than in a side-car) on a motor bicycle when on a road to wear protective headgear as defined in Regulation 4(3). This requirement does not extend as regards a mowing machine or a vehicle being propelled by a person on foot. Nor, does it extend to a follower of the Sikh religion while he is wearing a turban (this exemption is secured by the Motor-Cycle Crash Helmets (Religious Exemption) Act 1976 but is repeated in Regulation 4(2) for the sake of clearness). This requirement substantially re-enacts the requirement contained in the Motor Cycles (Wearing of Helmets) Regulations 1973, as amended.

2. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 33 of the Road Traffic Act 1972, the Minister of Transport, by these Regulations, prescribes certain types of helmet recommended as affording protection to persons on or in motor cycles from injury in the event of accident. The said types of helmets are so prescribed by reference to conformity with certain British Standards and by appropriate markings. This is achieved by re-enacting the substance of the Motor Cycles (Protective Helmets) Regulations 1974, as amended, and taking into account amendments to British Standards 5361: 1976 and 2495: 1977. By virtue of Regulation 5, on or after 1st January 1982 only helmets which, as respects their shape, construction and other qualities, conform with British Standard 5361: 1976 or 2495: 1977 will, under the regulations, be prescribed as recommended as affording such protection.

