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Helmets – Latest News – Standards Forum

Some said last year's Forum at Standards Australia was a farce, yet what resulted was national change to helmet laws to allow sale and use of ECE 22-05 helmets. This came about through regulatory changes by the ACCC and road authorities, not from any action of Standards Australia.

This year's Forum at Standards Australia did its best to disappear down a psychedelic rabbit hole, Standards Australia again pointing out that the solution was not with them. The problem remains regulatory, with road authorities seeking amendment of AS/NZS 1698, to turn it into an in-service regulation to control use of helmets. This approach is wrong-headed and has already shown problems.

Road authorities need to sort out a consistent single national road rule with in-service regulations for helmet use based on evidence and current safe practices (e.g. dark visors in daytime).

In service regulations are to address issues like drilling holes in a helmet, crash damage and any other issues that may compromise a helmet.

Several participants seemed to be hypnotised by cameras on helmets. We had the FUDs of Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt, speculations and secret testing, but no actual evidence of an injury problem. Some statements made on this subject were not credible.

The majority of helmets into the future will be ECE 22-05. Some helmets will still require AS/NZS 1698:2006, but there is no technical need to amend the helmet or visor standard for these.

What is needed is improved point of sale surveillance of helmet certifications for all standards.

Many voices were heard, some sensible and some seeking commercial advantage. Rider representation was solid, with CJ Burns (MCCofNSW), "loose cannon" Wayne Carruthers and myself making the case for a nationally consistent, sensible and understandable road rule.

Again, the heavy lifting will be done by those quietly doing the ongoing and consistent work of state and territory based rider organisations co-ordinating through the Australian Motorcycle Council.

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