



POST PUBLICATION - RESPONSE TO THE STANDARDS

Whilst the impact protector and back protector standards were quickly adopted and complied with, the footwear standard was not widely used for several years and the clothing and glove standards were widely ignored. Smaller and mid-sized manufacturers were the first to test and certify their clothing, but over the next decade or so, the major brands simply ignored, not only the standards, but also the industry agreement with the European Commission and their legal obligation to test and certify products which they were claiming provided protection.

Critics of the standards claimed that in order to pass the documents' requirements, motorcycle clothing needed to be heavy, thick, cumbersome, hot and uncomfortable. Comparison were made with the sort of product the industry was commonly selling - thin-shelled polyester or polyamide jackets and trousers - which typically abraded to a hole in less than one second, when the standard sought a minimum performance of between 1 and 4 seconds, corresponding to the risk Zones on the body.

Meanwhile, companies who embraced the data and information the standards could contribute to their product development programmes worked on producing lighter, thinner, more flexible and more breathable garments which could still meet the requirements of the standard!

With little enforcement action on the part of the authorities generally, the majority of the European motorcycle clothing industry could afford to do nothing, with little risk of prosecution; however, in France, the situation started to change.