



THE PPE REGULATION

The Personal Protective Equipment Regulation 2016/425 was passed by the European Parliament on 9th March 2016 and comes in to force on 21st April 2018, replacing the PPE Directive.

From a technical perspective, there is little change. Manufacturers will continue to use European Standards to satisfy the Health and Safety Requirements of the Regulation.

The authorities responsible for surveillance and enforcement of the Regulation will be provided with additional powers. Authorities in some Member States are already stepping-up their activities, in preparation for April 2018, as indicated above.

One major change is the decision by the European Parliament to categorise all protective clothing and equipment for use by motorcyclists as Personal Protective Equipment.

As has been explained above; previously, motorcycle clothing manufacturers had been responsible for stating whether their products are or are not PPE. This was reinforced by the agreement forged at the high-level meeting, in 1994, between representatives of industry and senior civil servants at the European Commission.

We have already covered elsewhere, however, how that agreement was widely abused, so the new mandatory classification is considered by some observers as a response intended to bring the motorcycle clothing industry into line.