



Established 1957

Snell Memorial Foundation, Inc.
3628 Madison Avenue, Ste. 11
North Highlands, CA 95660

Phone (916) 331-5073
Fax (916) 331-0359

April 6, 2004

M2005 & SA/K2005 Draft Standards For Protective Headgear & Release Time Line.

The third drafts of the Snell Memorial Foundation's new standards for protective headgear for use in motorcycling and other motorsports and for use in competitive automotive sports and kart racing are now available. They may be downloaded from the Foundation's web site, www.smf.org, or hard copies may be requested from the Snell office. Since SA2005 and K2005 differ only in flame resistance requirements, these two standards have been combined in a single document. However, since flame resistance is considered a critical issue for competition automobile racing, the SA2005 and K2005 programs will be maintained as separate and distinct.

Manufacturers of protective headgear, and those who have an interest in protective headgear are invited to submit comments and recommendations regarding these standards which the Foundation will consider in the preparation of the final documents. The following time line is the projected release schedule for these 2005 standards.

Final Draft Completion - May 31, 2004

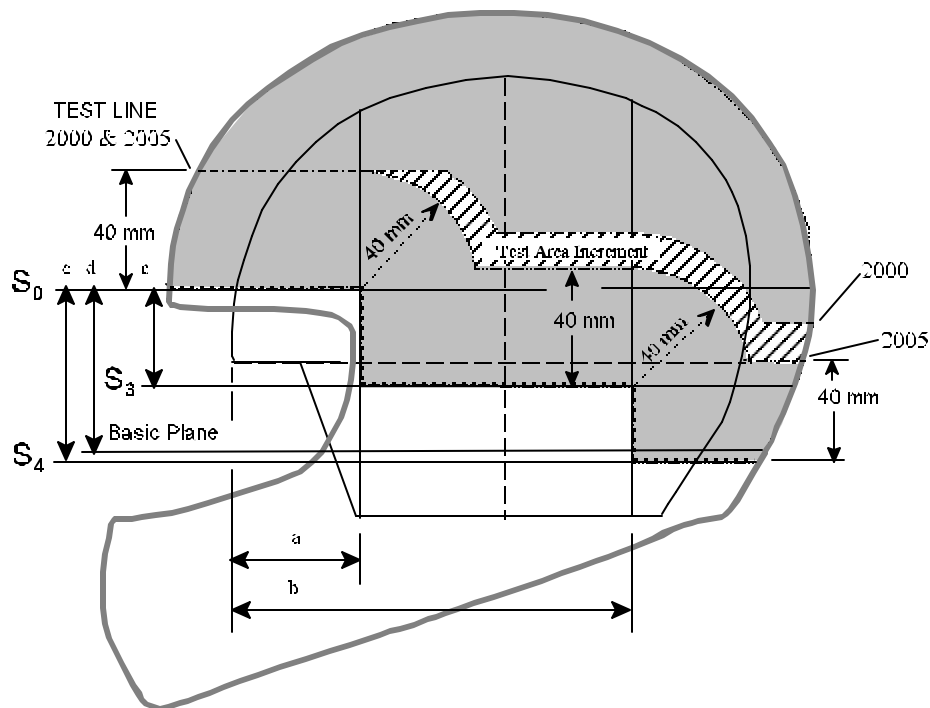
Manufacturers may submit helmets for certification to the new standards any time after this date. Helmets meeting requirements for certification will be granted certification to the current M2000, SA2000 or K-98 standards as appropriate and will be granted certification to the 2005 standard as of the release date.

Release Date - October 1, 2005

The M2005 and SA/K2005 standards will be officially released on this date barring any unforeseen complications. M2005, SA2005 and K2005 decals will be offered to certified manufacturers after June 30, 2005 but units bearing the new decals may not be distributed until the release date.

Certification testing and Decals

No further M2000, SA2000 or K-98 certifications will be performed and M2000, SA2000 and K-98 decals will no longer be available after the official release of the 2005 standards. Manufacturers may continue to use any stocks of these decals they may have in appropriately certified helmets until March 1, 2006 or return them for a credit of 80% of the original charge against future label purchases.



Proposed Test Line Shift

Performance Requirement Revisions for M2005 and SA/K2005 Standards

Differences with the 2000 Standards

1. The test line will be shifted to no closer than 40 mm to the nearest point on the boundary of the extent of protection. Effectively, this leaves the test line as it was for M2000 and SA2000 in the brow area and lowers it 10 mm on the sides and in the back of the helmet.
2. Impact levels and impact test criteria are specified for two levels of testing: the standard level and the deviation level. The standard level applies to helmets tested in certification and for first round RST. Passing testing at the standard level demonstrates that the samples merit the Foundation's certification. The deviation level is for samples tested in second round RST. If samples of certified models fail at the deviation level, it is a clear demonstration that the model no longer reliably meets requirements.
3. The cold temperature conditioning for SA2005 and K2005 has been replaced with a "cold storage" provision. Helmets will not be tested cold but may be



M2005 & SAK2005 Draft Standards For Protective Headgear & Release Time Line. May 19, 2003

cycled through a -20° C cold environment and then allowed to return to lab ambient temperature before continuing with standard test procedures. The cold conditioning for M2005 remains at -20° C and M2005 samples may be tested cold .

4. The M2005 draft includes specific provisions for flip-up type headgear. These provisions are the same as those adopted for testing flip-up configurations for M2000 but, after this, they will be in print. The provisions are that flip-up configurations must meet all the requirements set for standard full face headgear and, additionally, the samples must not “flip up” inadvertently during testing.
5. The standards include a restriction against a particular method for attaching fabric chinstraps: if fabric chinstraps are used for retention, they must not be secured to the shell by rivets passed directly through the fabric. The preferred method used in almost every Snell certified helmet is to loop and sew the straps about a metal hanger which is in turn riveted or bolted to the shell. However, reasonable alternatives to this method will also be considered.
6. Replaceable components critical to protective capability must be suitably marked. In particular, face shields of full face helmets must be marked with manufacturer name and the month and year of manufacture.
7. The shell penetration test procedures now specify that testing may be performed on any site on or above the test line and that shell penetration test sites must be no closer than 7.5 cm to any other shell penetration or impact test site. The test equipment has been modified to enable shell penetration testing to be applied to the full extent of the test area.
8. The standards also include a post-test disassembly and inspection operation in order to detect potentially hazardous internal projections, any internal features considered implausible for production headgear and deviations from the configurations originally certified.

We here are grateful for all the comments and advice we have received to date. We will welcome all criticisms, comments, suggestions and questions concerning these new drafts. Although we are confident that the drafting process is all but complete, we expect to make the best use of all advice, hopefully, before we publish but certainly whenever good advice comes in.