



Position Statement - Protective Clothing

Research has shown that in a crash protective clothing is able to reduce the severity of injuries. However, there is no guarantee that what is sold as motorcycle protective clothing is “fit for purpose”. The MotoCAP 5 Star rating scheme enables riders to make informed choices when purchasing and wearing protective clothing.

Priority:- High

Where are we now:-

The Motorcycle Clothing Assessment Program (MotoCAP) has two ratings, one for ‘protection’ and the other for thermal comfort.

The rating for ‘protection’ is based on tests used in the European Standards EN 13595 jackets, pants & one piece suits and EN 13594 Gloves.

MotoCAP tests clothing for abrasion resistance, burst strength and impact resistance. If the garment is advertised as waterproof, it is also tested for water protection. The actual results are reported in terms of time to failure etc rather than on a pass/fail basis.

This approach allows garments to be ranked in order of performance allowing riders to make informed decisions. It also ensures continuing competition between manufacturers.

Where we want to be-

Where riders, when purchasing protective clothing, can make informed choices as to:-

- the level of protection they are purchasing,
- the level of thermal comfort they are purchasing.

The MCC does not support the introduction of a Standard as this is inappropriate and unworkable due to Australia’s diverse climate. Also, a Standard provides no incentive for the continual improvement in the quality of protective clothing being offered for sale, it will only set a minimum quality that has to be achieved.

The MCC does not support mandating protective clothing but rather it supports providing riders with information so they can make an informed choice.

How to get there:-

The MCC works with rider groups, committees and industry to raise awareness of the benefits of protective clothing.

The MCC continues to support the Australian Motorcycle Council which has representation on the Working Group that oversees MotoCAP.