

Motorcycle Clothing – Buyers Guide

There is no law that requires you to wear protective clothing whilst riding your motorcycle, but compliant protective gear is strongly recommended

- it could save your life and prevent serious injury!



Is your motorbike clothing going to protect you if you have an impact with and slide along the road surface?

Did you know that all motorcycle clothing, gloves, footwear and impact protection components are classed as PPE?

Whether your gear is for track day racing, riding to work or for leisure rides, all of your motorcycle clothing that contains or can accommodate impact protectors (so everything apart from simple waterproofs) needs to comply with the relevant safety Regulations, have gone through the specified testing regime and be labelled correctly.

Motorcycle clothing in its entirety (so not just the impact protectors), is now covered by the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations (otherwise known as PPE) and must be marked with a conformity safety mark (CE, new UKCA or UKNI marks), ratings for the level of protection and user information and warnings.

The Regulations require protective clothing to undergo safety assessment and independent testing to ensure the product is compliant to the safety requirements and will provide

suitable and sufficient protection against the risks they are intended to safeguard against, such as a fall from the bike and against injury from impact or abrasion.

There are various levels of protection offered and the labels can be quite confusing. Remember, motorcycle clothing design involves separating the garment into 3 zones (areas of the garment which offer various levels of protection from identified risks: highest risk of impact and abrasion, such as shoulders, hips and knees, intermediate risk of abrasion and lowest risk of abrasion, such as the front of the body and back of the knees) and into classes of protection. You will see anything from Class AAA to B.

There are some simple checks you can carry out when you are next buying your new gear. By following our buyers guide below you can take steps to ensure it is suitable for your needs and meets the legal safety testing requirements.

There are many counterfeit and poor-quality, cheap motorcycle clothing products available online, which can give a rider a false sense of protection and will reduce the actual level of protection provided (if any at all). Fakes can also be difficult to identify.

Buyers Beware

Follow this Buyers guide to arm yourself with the knowledge of what you buy is suitable and will offer the level of protection required

No protective garment can offer complete protection against all injuries!

Buyers Guide – what to look for

- Clothing, gloves and boots all need to have been independently tested to the applicable safety standards
- The standard numbers you should see include:
 - Jackets, trousers, one-piece suits and two-piece suits should be certified and labelled to the safety Standard BS EN 17092, it may even be labelled as prEN 17092 or FprEN 17092, which were earlier draft versions of the standard, but which are almost identical to the final published version where the main tests are concerned
 - Boots to EN13634
 - Gloves to EN13594
- Motorcycle gear should be marked and labelled with specific information including the rating level which will tell you the level of protection it will provide and its intended use
- Labelling Checks:
 - the product should contain an attached label with the motorcyclist symbol and the i-booklet sign indicating the purchaser to read the Instructions for Use.



- Examine the labels and product for: -
- the standard number and year
 - the rating level (AAA, AA, A, B etc.)
 - the conformity mark CE, UKCA or UKNI
 - Impact protectors should be marked up individually or on the label
 - Manufacturers Name and Address
 - Importers Name and Address
- If any of the above information or pictograms are missing, then start asking more questions
 - Instructions for use: clothing should be provided with attached Instructions for Use and should include information and warnings such as: -
 - The intended and appropriate use
 - Advice on using the PPE clothing in combination with others such as helmets, boots, gloves and hi-visibility accessories
 - A warning: “No PPE or combination of PPE can offer full protection against injury”
 - Where impact protectors are removable a warning not to wear without protectors
 - All PPE must be supplied with a Declaration of Conformity (confirming the product meets the PPE legal requirements) or a web address where this can be obtained
 - If you find branded gear on an unknown website at a far lower cost than the manufacturers, then this should trigger alarm bells – do some more research into the seller and any published negative reviews

And finally,....if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!

Further reading and information can be found:-

[bennetts.co.uk/bikesocial/news-and-views/features/product/safest-motorcycle-gear-ce-ratings](https://www.bennetts.co.uk/bikesocial/news-and-views/features/product/safest-motorcycle-gear-ce-ratings)

