



## HRA DRIVERS' PROTECTIVE VESTS APPROVAL 2014 POLICY

### Scope

These requirements outline the minimum performance level for protective vests to be used by harness racing drivers in Australia.

#### 1. Harness Racing Australia Approval – from 1 July 2014

All new driver vests shall meet the requirements of Level 2 or higher of EN 13158:2009 Protective Clothing – Protective Jackets, Body and Shoulder Protectors for Horse Riders – Requirements and Test Methods.

Only vests shown to meet EN 13158:2009 Level 2 or Level 3 and demonstrated to be manufactured with an acceptable quality assurance process shall be approved for use in harness racing in Australia. Note HRA will accept both Level 2 and Level 3 vests compliant with Paragraph 4.2.2 Coverage for both rider (4.2.2.1) and driver (4.2.2.2) requirements of EN 13158:2009. The vest manufacturer/supplier shall demonstrate this compliance by meeting the [HRA 2014 Approval Process](#).

These changes have been made in order to:

1. Maintain a consistent level of protection at EN 13158:2009 – Level 2 or higher.
2. To increase the availability of vests in the relatively small Australian market by encouraging local manufacturers and distributors to enter the market. This will ensure that the costs are kept to a minimum for the user as vest manufacturers are given access to the market without the need for re-certification in Australia.
3. To remove from service older vests to the old HRA 1998 Standard.
4. Allow for drivers to continue the use of the previously approved and still serviceable vests under BETA 2000 and BETA 2009.

The new HRA 2014 Approval Process allows two pathways to gain approval.

1. If the vest is certified to the current EN 13158:2009 Level 2, or higher, and has been certified by BETA to this level (and carries the appropriate swing tags) application can be made for it to be approved for use in Australia.
2. If the vest is not certified by BETA at the appropriate level, application can be made for it to be certified by Harness Racing Australia where it will be tested to ensure that it meets the requirements of EN 13158:2009 Level 2, or higher. If approval is given, then an appropriate HRA swing tag must be affixed to show that it is an approved vest.

Newly approved vests will be identified by the presence of either the current BETA 2009 markings and swing tags or a HRA marking and swing tag, both containing the manufacturer details. Approved vests will appear on the [HRA Approved Vests List](#).



Beta 2009 Level 3 Swing Tag



HRA Swing Tag

## **2. Protective Vests which already have BETA 2000 Standard approval**

Serviceable BETA 2000 vests currently approved by HRA shall continue to be approved and acceptable for use by harness racing drivers in official races and trials ([refer to the HRA Approved Vests List](#)). Drivers are reminded that vests that are damaged should be replaced with a new approved vest.

### 3. HRA Approval Process

#### A. New Protective Vests which already have BETA 2009 Standard Approval

Applications for protective vest approval, which already have BETA 2009 Standard approval, require the following:

- i. The manufacturer/importer/distributor is to supply:
  - a complete copy of the BETA certification documentation; and
  - completed [HRA Drivers' Protective Vests Approval Application Form](#) including payment for testing fees to:

Chief Executive

Harness Racing Australia Inc

Level 1, 400 Epsom Road

Flemington Vic 3031

t 61 3 9227 3000

e [akelly@hra.com.au](mailto:akelly@hra.com.au)

- ii. The manufacturer/importer/distributor is to send one sample vest of a medium size **direct** to Velocity Track Engineering Consultants (VTEC), marked to the attention of:

Harness Racing Australia Vest Approval Application

Attn: Mr Andrew Kelly

Velocity Track Engineering Consultants

40 Broderick Rd

Corio Vic 3214

Australia

The protective vest inspection will be as follows:

1. Visually.
2. Check of the sizing.
3. Drop testing to a simplified version of the EN 13158:2009 – Level 2 Standard, mainly to check the material capability and construction.

4. Other tests as required will be notified from time to time and will be made. This is to ensure compliance with the relevant test certification and maintain up to date information for approval processes.
5. A confidential report will be prepared and sent to Harness Racing Australia Inc. In the event of a protective vest's inspection disclosing a reported fault this will be rectified in conjunction with the manufacturer / distributor prior to any approval being further considered by HRA.

#### **B. New Protective Vests submitted for approval to be certified by HRA**

Applications for protective vest approval to be certified by HRA, to the EN 13158:2009 Standard, require the following:

- i. The manufacturer/importer/distributor is to apply for approval by submitting a completed [HRA Drivers' Protective Vests Approval Application Form](#) and details of payment for testing fees to:

Attn: Mr Andrew Kelly  
Harness Racing Australia Inc  
Level 1, 400 Epsom Road  
Flemington Vic 3031  
t 61 3 9227 3000  
e [akelly@hra.com.au](mailto:akelly@hra.com.au)

- ii. The manufacturer/importer/distributor is to send one sample vest of each size to be approved **direct** to the attention of:

Harness Racing Australia Vest Approval Application  
Attn: Mr Andrew Kelly  
C/- Velocity Track Engineering Consultants  
40 Broderick Rd  
Corio Vic 3214

(Note if only one size vest is to be sold then two sample vests will be required)

- iii. These vests will then be tested to the full requirements of EN 13158:2009 – Level 2 Standard with the confidential test report provided to HRA as well as the manufacturer/distributor. The HRA will accept Level 2 and Level 3 vests compliant with Paragraph 4.2.2 Coverage for both the rider (4.2.2.1) and driver (4.2.2.2) requirements of EN 13158:2009. HRA will issue approval when all requirements of the EN 13158:2009 – Level 2 or Level 3 Standard are met, including for labeling and swing tags. On receiving HRA Approval the vests will be added to [HRA's Approved Vests List](#) and can be used in harness racing in Australia.

### **C. Surveillance Testing**

HRA will continue to monitor the quality of vests available to the industry. Each year random sample performance testing will be carried out to ensure that vests supplied in Australia remain in compliance with the BETA 2009 Level 2 or Level 3 Standard or the EN 13158:2009 – Level 2 or Level 3 Standard Protective Clothing – Protective Jackets, body and shoulder protectors for horse riders – Requirements and test methods. This random sample testing will be paid for by the manufacturer/importer/distributor. Any enquiries can be directed to Andrew Kelly at Harness Racing Australia at the above contact point.

### **D. Failure to Pass Vest Standards**

Should a vest failure occur during the random sample testing process, then the following steps will be taken:

- i. The manufacturer will be advised, and more samples purchased for testing at the manufacturer/importer/distributors expense.
- ii. If the vest fails again, this shall be regarded as serious and HRA's approval for the protective vest will be revoked, the State Controlling Bodies' Chairmen of Stewards notified, and a public announcement made.
- iii. If a BETA approved vest, the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA), Stockheld Park, Wetherby, LS22 4AW, England, will be concurrently notified for action.

### **E. Payment of Fees**

The applicant for HRA Approval of the protective vest will be responsible for fees in the various inspection and sample testing processes undertaken by independent engineers. All fees must be paid to HRA at the time of submitting the [HRA Drivers' Protective Vests Approval Application Form](#). The fees are a reflection of the cost of testing equipment purchased for the testing together with the specialised technical resources required to undertake the testing.

### **F. Enquiries**

Enquiries can be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, Harness Racing Australia Inc. Technical enquiries should be directed to the above contact points. However, manufacturers should refer to the EN 13158:2009 – Level 2 Standard for requirements for the vest itself.

**Date of Implementation:** 1 July 2014

**Last Updated:** 27 June 2014