



Track Bulletin

Bulletin No.: 2008-1

Date: 04/16/08

Subject: Helmet Requirements for Driver Schools

The BMW Car Club of America and its local chapters have established and agreed upon Driver School Minimum Standards a number of years ago that apply to the operation and participation in these events.

With regard to helmets, it is accepted that the minimum standard will apply to require that evidence of Snell Foundation approval must be present. The use of helmets that are only approved by the US Department of Transportation (DOT), or any other non-Snell agency, will not be permitted at our events.

Traditionally, the Snell Foundation revises their standard every five (5) years. BMW CCA requires the use of helmets that are no more than one approval period behind the most current Snell approved helmet.

It is common when a new Snell Approval period begins that availability of the latest version helmet may be limited. Distributors often wish to deplete existing supplies before the new version of Snell approved helmets are released.

In response to this, we generally treat the first year following a new release for Snell rated helmets on a transition basis.

To the best of our knowledge, Snell 2005 helmets became available on a limited basis during the month of October 2005. Therefore, the 2006 season was considered the transition period and beginning with January 1, 2007, the minimum requirement is for a Snell 2000 (either M or SA) approved helmet.

We recommend, however, that you consider purchasing the most recent Snell approved helmet available. If your car is equipped with a roll bar or cage, we strongly recommend and urge you to purchase a Snell 2005 SA approved helmet.

Finally, it is very important that your helmet fit properly in order for it to afford you the protection that it was designed to offer and a helmet that has suffered damage from an impact or a fire should be replaced.

Helmets are checked for specification during the vehicle tech inspection at our events. The evidence of Snell approval of a helmet is the holographic certification sticker on the inside of the helmet, under the liner, not by the "DOT/Snell Approved" sticker some helmets have on the outside rear. Any helmet not meeting our minimum requirements will be confiscated and held until the end of the event.

Gene Schaeffer, DelVal Tech Chair