

Is Your Helmet Legal?

Michigan law says that you must wear a helmet and your helmet must comply with D.O.T. manufacturing standards to be legal for motorcycle use on our roads.

My question is how you can or the police tell if your helmet actually does comply with the D.O.T. manufacturing standards?

Even if you purchase your helmet from a reputable dealer and the helmet has a DOT sticker that does not mean that it in fact does meet the D.O.T. manufacturing standards. Your helmet may not meet those standards when purchased new and who knows if they would still meet those standards a year or two later.

The following helmets were tested by the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration during the 2007 fiscal year. The federal government tested thirty-seven (37) new helmets with DOT stickers on them. Here are the results:

Passed: ScorpionVX-14, EXL 115, Zamp S-2, Bell Drifter, Caberg Helmets 104, Gmax 35S, HJC-Kawasaki Vulcan-2, Harley-Davidson Trespasser, Vega Mach-1, Nolan N84, Arai Vector, Icon Mainframe, Vega Summit II, V-Can V-530, KBC-VR-2, Daytona Helmets Skull Cap, Shoei Multitec, Shark RS1, Z1R Metro, Suomy J10/Spec1r/Extreme.

Failed:

For lack of proper labeling: EXL 662, Akuma F-14, Moto-X MT-A101, Yueqing Jixi-ang Motorcycle Fittings Co. 200.

For projections inside helmet: Rodia RHD-EX

Failures due to impact: AFX FX-66, HJC AC-3, VOX 803, Zox Old School, Icon Domain

Multiple failures: Advanced Carbon Composites EXT-002 (impact, penetration, retention); Outlaw V530 (penetration, retention); Yueqing Jixiang Motorcycle Fittings Co. 100 (impact, penetration, labeling); Rodia RHD 200 (impact, retention, labeling); GPX Shorty (impact, labeling); Hot Leathers Nh70/H200fb (impact, labeling); Winex VX-4 (impact, labeling)

So, Is your helmet legal? How can you tell? How can the police tell? How can the courts tell? How can you enforce the Michigan motorcycle helmet law?

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