



File S702-23

June 1, 2010

To: Hockey Canada

From: CSA Technical Committee on Equipment and Facilities for Ice Hockey

Re: Hockey Helmet Certification and Life-span

Virtually all hockey helmets sold in Canada bear 3 stickers indicating third-party testing and certification of the helmet because of the need for manufacturers to meet the mandated standards within 3 jurisdictions. The certification marks include the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certification label which must appear on all helmets sold in Canada that are intended for use in ice hockey; the Hockey Equipment Certification Council (HECC) certification sticker which is mandatory for hockey helmets in the United States; and the European Union's required CE marker for hockey helmets intended for sale and use in Europe.

The sale of hockey helmets is regulated in Canada by Health Canada under the Hazardous Products Act. Hockey Canada, however, only permits the use of hockey helmets certified to CSA Standard Z262.1 for all players under its jurisdiction.

Some confusion has arisen over the HECC certification stickers on hockey helmets sold in Canada because they bear a time limit. This time limit is related only to the length of certification (originally 5 years but changed recently to 6.5 years) granted by HECC for a given helmet, and is not an indication of the life-span of a hockey helmet. HECC certified hockey helmets are mandated for players playing under the jurisdiction of USA Hockey. The HECC certification sticker does not apply in Canada. The only certification sticker that should be verified for play under the jurisdiction of Hockey Canada is the presence of the CSA certification label on the helmet.

....2

The life-span of a hockey helmet is not easy to determine. Many factors, including the amount and type of use, care and maintenance, storage, etc., determine a hockey helmet's life-span. Consumers should exercise good judgment as to the suitability of a hockey helmet for play. Helmets that are cracked, have loose fitting or missing liner pieces, or that have been subjected to a severe blow should be replaced.

The CSA certification label provides assurances that a hockey helmet performs in accordance with CSA Standard Z262.1. For a hockey helmet to function effectively, it must be in very good working order and worn properly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Brodie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ian Brodie, MSc.
Project Manager
Canadian Standards Association
Tel: 416-747-2670
Email: ian.brodie@csa.ca