

**IMPORTANT NOTICE OF CHANGES TO
NORTH CAROLINA'S
MOTORCYCLE SAFETY HELMET LAW**

**Effective January 1, 2008 all operators and passengers on motorcycles and mopeds must wear a motorcycle safety helmet of a type that complies with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard
(FMVSS) 218**

What to look for in a legal helmet:

- **Thick Inner Liner**

FMVSS 218 compliant motorcycle safety helmets will have a firm inner liner of polystyrene foam that is about one inch thick. In some helmets this may be covered by a comfort liner, but you can feel the thickness. Non-compliant helmets normally contain no liner or a thin soft foam padding.

- **DOT Sticker**

Compliant motorcycle safety helmets will have the symbol "DOT" permanently **installed by the manufacturer** on the back of the helmet. Some "novelty type" helmets are supplied with a separate "DOT" sticker or one can be purchased separately and placed on the helmet by the motorcyclists. This **does not** make this a compliant helmet.

- **Manufacturer's Label**

Each compliant motorcycle safety helmet will have a permanently attached label either sewn or glued in the interior of the helmet **by the manufacturer** that has the manufacturer's name or identification, precise model, size, month and year of manufacture, type of shell and liner construction materials and an instruction label for cleaning and care of the helmet.

NOVELTY TYPE HELMETS ARE NOT COMPLIANT WITH (FMVSS 218)

**NORTH CAROLINA
MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FACTS**

- Motorcycles represent about 2 percent of all registered vehicles in NC, but account for about 10 percent of all fatalities on our roads.
- As of Sept 1st of 2007, 63 % of all crashes involving motorcycles were single vehicle crashes (motorcycle only).
- Of those crashes involving other vehicles, over half (53%) were the fault of the motorcyclist.
- Of those motorcyclist at fault crashes 81% occurred when the rider crossed the centerline either while passing another vehicle or while negotiating a curve.
- Of those other vehicle at fault crashes 57% were failure to yield right of way at an intersection and 43% were turning left across the motorcycles path.
- The majority (82.7%) of motorcycle fatal crashes occurred because of the fault of the motorcyclist.

RIDER SAFETY TIPS

What can you do to reduce your chances of being involved in a motorcycle crash?

- Get properly trained. NC has several programs available through the Community College System Motorcycle Safety Education Program (800) 428-7433, NC State Highway Patrol BikeSafe-NC Program (919) 662-4430 Commercial programs such as the HD Rider's Edge Program.
Ridersedge.com
- Wear proper riding gear; FMVSS 218 Helmet, long pants, long sleeves, full fingered gloves, over the ankle shoes/boots and eye protection. Wear light, bright clothing and something with retro-reflective material to make yourself more visible to others on the road.

For more information contact the Governor's Highway Safety Program website:

www.ncdot.org/programs/GHSP/links/