

Quality Counts!

A helmet is not just a helmet...



We at Centurion Safety Products pride ourselves in the quality of our products. We do not want to just manufacture helmets, but want to manufacture the best helmets possible. They are, after all, the ultimate safety product and protect the most valuable part of the human body. The adversity of severe damage or loss of a hand or a foot can be coped with; this is not true of the head!



With this Product Quality Mission in mind, Centurion work hard to ensure that all the components used in the manufacture of our helmets are the very best, both in terms of quality and technology and that our manufacturing processes are second to none.

UV Stabilised Material

All safety helmets approved to EN 397 have to pass a mandatory Artificial Ageing test against UV (where the helmet is exposed to 400 hours of radiation under an intensive, high-pressure xenon 450-watt lamp within a UV weathering device and then tested).



UV weathering device

Centurion safety helmets are moulded with UV stabilised Polymer, thereby eradicating any concerns that the end user may have that the sun's ultraviolet rays will have any adverse effects on the performance of the helmet.

It is true to say that certain darker colours may fade after being subjected to prolonged periods of direct sunlight, but this is purely the colour pigment and is no way an indicator of any reduction in performance and/or strength.

100% pure Virgin Material – not regrind

Re-grind is the term given to plastic material that has already been used in a moulding process once and is ground up to be re-used. The benefit is that re-grind is much cheaper than 'Virgin' Polymer, but the risk is that it is not easy to determine the origin of the regrind materials. Repeated re-grind lowers the cohesive strength of the Polymer and it is not possible to know how many times the material has been used previously. As this process can often involve the use of recycled plastics from a variety of sources, the re-grind material may also not be 100% pure. The level of contaminants or amount of alien material can be unknown in such cases and although this may not be an issue for non-safety critical applications, it could have far more serious consequences in a product such as an industrial safety helmet.

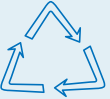
The material being used as re-grind may also not have been UV stabilised and thus possibly have been subjected to UV rays, hence degrading the material.

Centurion NEVER uses regrind material in the manufacture of its helmets, using only Virgin Polymer from major industry suppliers.



Recycled versus Recyclable material:

Although Centurion safety helmets have not been made from recycled material (using 100% pure Virgin material instead of regrind material) for quality and safety reasons, the helmets can be recycled at the end of their useful life. A recycle symbol is moulded into each Centurion helmet shell and headband. Contact your local Waste Management Company for assistance on product disposal.



BSI Kitemark

Centurion is the only manufacturer to have all helmets for use in the UK accredited with the BSI Kitemark.

Essentially, this means that the user can be absolutely confident that their Centurion product continues to meet the performance characteristics of the initial sample submitted for testing. In order for Centurion to retain the Kitemark, BSI independently audit and test our products at regular intervals and we must routinely batch test products in our own laboratory and have process control procedures in place within production. No batch of helmets leaves Centurion's premises without being tested and fully compliant to the relevant standards. BSI also regularly audits Centurion's quality and management procedures to ensure continual conformance with our accreditation.

Note: Centurion helmets supplied outside the UK (which do not carry the BSI Kitemark symbol) also undergo the same rigorous production and testing processes.



BSI Kitemark symbol

Helmet Traceability

All Centurion helmets have a batch sticker inside the shell so that there is full traceability of the production process and raw materials used. Centurion can trace back at any time who made the helmet, what moulding machine produced the various components as well as the delivery date and batch number of raw materials used.

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Centurion Batch Sticker

Category 3 Product / ISO 9000:2000

Any industrial safety helmet which claims electrical resistance falls under Category 3 of 89/686/EEC. For Category 3 products, EU manufacturers must ensure that they have either ISO9000:2000 or that a notified body regularly inspects their manufacturing location. Category 3 products require a regime of continuous inspection and testing.

All of Centurion's respiratory and head protection products (helmets and bump caps) are inspected and monitored to this level, regardless of whether they claim Category 3 compliance. Centurion not only has products accredited with the BSI Kitemark but have held the ISO9000:2000 certificate since 2003, with initial accreditation in 1992.



In comparison, Category 2 requires only that products obtain initial type approval; there is no policing to ensure that the products continue to satisfy the requirements of Category 2 after it's initial approval. It is possible that certain 'overseas' manufacturers could produce copies of European manufacturers' helmets and then submit these for type approval. Once type approval has been obtained these manufacturers could then produce and supply inferior versions. Category 1 products are products where there is no type approval – manufacturers self certify the products. These are products such as sweatbands, chinstraps, etc.

EN 397 standard testing

Centurion helmets are not just approved to the mandatory tests within EN 397 but also the various optional tests where possible. The majority of Centurion helmets are approved with the Lateral Deformation (LD) optional test for added side impact protection. Other EN 397 optional tests are: Molten Metal, Electrical Resistance and Low Temperature options. In addition, Centurion manufacture several helmets approved to tests which exceed the options within EN 397, such as -40°C Low Temperature Resistance and 1000V a.c. Electrical Resistance.



Lateral Deformation

Visibility of information:

In order to not mislead or confuse the wearer, Centurion uses labels inside the shell to denote the options within EN 397 rather than moulding the information into the shell. The key reasoning is that when a helmet is not ventilated, it can be approved to the Molten Metal and Electrical Resistance options, but as soon as that same shell is ventilated, these options are no longer applicable. There are some helmets on the market today that have the information moulded into the helmet and could therefore provide misleading information to the user as to their suitability for certain applications and risks.



Peak standard markings



Peak label

When does a Centurion helmet need to be changed?

Centurion provide clear instructions with every helmet. A Centurion helmet can be stored for up to 5 years from the date of manufacture and it has an in-use life of up to 5 years from the date of issue to the user. All Centurion helmets have a date stamp moulded into the shell to denote the quarter and year of manufacturer and also a label with a 'date of issue' section for the wearer or employer to complete.



Date stamp



Date of Issue

An in-use life statement from a manufacturer is purely a recommendation for guidance and good practice. However, Centurion has done substantial testing on helmets over the years, researching the effects of the helmets' raw materials, including its UV stabilising properties and are very confident in quoting the 5 year period.

A helmet should be regularly inspected for damage and wear and tear. Excessive wear and tear can considerably reduce a helmet's lifespan and any helmet that has deep scratches, has been cut or has any impact damage should be discarded and replaced. Also, any corporate badging or marking on the shell should be done by an approved method. Centurion can pad print logos on its helmets or alternatively, can test customer's stickers or labels in our laboratory to ensure that the solvents and chemicals contained in the adhesives used in the labels have no detrimental effects on the performance of the helmet shell.



Centurion safety helmet being pad printed

A Wear and Care leaflet is available for further information.

If you have any further product performance enquiries, please ring the Centurion Customer Service desk on 01842 855045.

Centurion Safety Products Ltd
Howlett Way, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 1HZ, England.
Tel: +44 (0)1842 754266 Fax: +44 (0)1842 765590,
www.centurionsafety.co.uk, Email:sales@centurionsafety.co.uk