

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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Mr. Mark Temple
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], CA 95662

Dear Mr. Temple:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting a list of approved motorcycle helmets. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) does not maintain such a list; however enclosed is a pamphlet entitled "How To Identify Unsafe Motorcycle Helmets" from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The information provided in this pamphlet should help you choose a helmet which meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS 218).

The 1992 Motorcycle Driver Supplement published by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is being revised because the text was subject to misinterpretation. The CHP does not test, certify or approve helmets. The Highway Patrol enforces the state law requiring motorcyclists to wear a helmet which meets or exceeds FMVSS 218 as stated in California Vehicle Code Section 27803.

Title 49, Part 571.218 of the Code of Federal Regulations requires that helmets designed for use by motorcyclists comply with all applicable safety standards and that noncompliant products are recalled by their manufacturers. DOT neither "approves" nor "disapproves" a manufacturer's product, rather it requires the manufacturer to certify its products conform to all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

Thank you again for your letter, Mr. Temple. If you have further questions regarding the Federal Standards on motorcycle helmets, please contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at 400 Seventh Street, Washington, DC 20590 (202) 366-1739.

Sincerely,


D. O. HELMICK
Deputy Commissioner

Enclosure