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CLIENT LETTER

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

FOLKSAM'S TEST OF EQUESTRIAN HELMETS SHOW MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN LEVELS OF PROTECTION

The Swedish insurance company Folksam has independently tested 15 riding helmets for children and adults available on the Swedish market and the test shows that only three out of fifteen helmets obtained the Folksam best in test or good choice label. If you are unlucky to find yourself in an accident, the right choice of equestrian helmet may prevent a concussion. The test also shows that the price is irrelevant in choosing a helmet as one of the most expensive helmets was among the worst performing ones.

In total three helmets stood out in the test and is awarded "Best in test" or "Good choice". The Back on Track EQ3 Lynx MIPS performed best and was 30% better than the average helmet. Back on Track EQ3 MIPS and Charles Owen Ayr8 Leather Look were runners-up awarded with "Good choice". The second most expensive helmet in the test received the lowest test score along with two cheaper helmets. The risk of concussion is however high in all helmets included in the test.

- "Approximately half a million Swedes ride on a regular basis. It is the second largest sport among young people according to The Swedish Sports Confederation. Among the 154.000 members of the Swedish Equestrian Federation about five riders sustain head injuries each week. One out of nine who sustained a concussion must deal with permanent medical impairments. Given these numbers it is very regrettable that so few helmets actually protect the riders against concussions. The manufacturers of equestrian helmets should take a larger responsibility in improving the protection", says Helena Stigson PhD and Associate Professor at the Folksam research team.

This is the second time that Folksam is conducting a test of equestrian helmets. Since the last test from 2014 the helmets have improved but there are still big flaws. The test shows that there is significant differences between the helmets and the risk of sustaining a concussion is two to five times higher if one of the lowest scoring helmets are used compared to the best one.

- "We can tell by the test that there is great potential for improvement to make the helmets safer. The two top scoring helmets were equipped with rotational motion protection system (MIPS), but all equestrian helmets needs to be better at reducing rotational forces to avoid concussions or even more serious brain damage.", says Stigson.

The major difference between a good and a poor helmet is how well it protects the head during oblique impact. Today there are no legal demands on the equestrian helmet manufacturers to prevent rotational forces. Only vertical impacts are tested to show how well the helmets can prevent skull fractures. This is in spite of a lot of research showing that rotational forces create brain damages. In the Folksam tests the helmets are subjected to impacts at angle, which closer will simulate the actual forces subjected during an accident compared to the vertical tests performed required by current legislation.

- "For us it comes very natural to engage in helmet tests since a poor helmet could have serious consequences for the users. We think it is very unfortunate that there are no legal demands on testing how well helmets can protect for oblique impacts which better simulates how a rider will hit the head during an impact. To avoid that helmets are sold without any protection against rotational motion, testing for oblique impacts should also be included in the European certification tests", says Stigson.

- It is very important to point out that it is always better with any helmet than without one. Research clearly shows that a helmet will reduce the number of head injuries by 50%." Stigson concludes.



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Results

Back on Track EQ3 Lynx MIPS was awarded “Best in test” and Back on Track EQ3 MIPS and Charles Owen Ayr8 Leather Look was awarded “Good choice”. The helmets scored as follows:

5: The helmet is awarded “Best in test”. This means that the helmet complies with all legal regulations and is 30% better than the average helmet in the test and protects well.

4: The helmets are awarded “Good choice”. This means that the helmet complied with all legal regulations and performs better than the average helmet in the test and protects well.

3: Complies with legal regulations and has an average test compared to all helmets in the test.

2. A lower test score compared to other helmets in test but complies with legal regulations.

1. A lower test score compared to other helmets in test and poor results in all tests, but complies with legal regulations.

HELMETS 2018	MIPS	PRICE (SEK)	SCORE
Back on Track EQ3 Lynx	YES	2000	5 - BEST IN TEST
Back on Track EQ3	YES	1800	4 - GOOD CHOICE
Charles Owen Ayr8 Leather Look	NO	4200	4 - GOOD CHOICE
Charles Owen Wellington Classic	NO	2500	3
Charles Owen YR8 Sparkling	NO	1950	3
Kask Dogma Star Lady	NO	6000	3
KEP Cromo	NO	3750	3
Uvex Perfexxion II	NO	2500	3
Uvex Suxceed Velours	NO	4000	3
Horka Red Horse	NO	500	2
Hansbo Ridhjälms HS Gold	NO	1000	2
Samshield Shadowmatt +5SW	NO	4100	2
Horka Horsy	NO	600	1
Equipage Priority	NO	1150	1
GPA First Lady 2X	NO	5900	1

[Download the report with the test results »](#)

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ABOUT MIPS

MIPS specializes in helmet-based safety and protection of the brain. Based on an ingredient brand model, MIPS Brain Protection System (BPS) is sold to the global helmet industry. MIPS solutions are patented in all relevant markets and are based on more than 20 years of research and development together with the Royal Institute of Technology and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

MIPS is the world leader in this field. The company's headquarters, with 25 employees in research and development, sales, marketing and administration is located in Stockholm together with the test facility.
For more information, visit mipsprotection.com.