

## Developing the Motorcycle Clothing Assessment Program

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### Abstract

The Motorcycle Clothing Assessment Program (MotoCAP) has been established as an Australian/New Zealand program to provide motorcycle riders with an independent assessment of the relative performance of their garments for thermal comfort and protection. The protection rating is based on the garment's abrasion resistance, impact protection and burst strength. The program will enable consumers to select clothing based on performance, which is expected to drive demand for better-performing garments and result in increased supply and use of such garments on the road, thereby reducing trauma to motorcyclists.

### Background

There are no regulations around the performance or design of motorcycling clothing in Australia. Consumers therefore lack independent assurance that the clothing they purchase will afford them appropriate protection, and are unable to compare relative protection when choosing between garments. As a result, industry has found it difficult to invest in better protective clothing while still remaining competitive against cheaper products.

The Motorcycle Clothing Assessment Program (MotoCAP) has been established in response to calls from motorcyclists, industry and safety advocates to provide greater information to consumers about the level of protection provided by motorcycling clothing. The program is overseen by a working group representing a large group of stakeholder organisations, including road agencies, Compulsory Third Party regulators, insurers and motoring clubs across Australia and New Zealand, as well as the Australian Motorcycling Council representing motorcyclists across the two countries.

The purpose of the MotoCAP rating scheme is to reduce trauma to motorcyclists by:

- informing the public of the relative performance of motorcycle protective clothing; which will
- increase demand for effective motorcycle protective clothing; thereby
- improving the supply of effective motorcycle protective clothing.

### Details of the scheme

The MotoCAP scheme provides two separate star ratings, one for thermal comfort and one for protection. The protection rating is based on the garment's burst strength, impact protection and abrasion resistance. The thermal comfort rating is based on the garment's ability to prevent riders from overheating.

The working group has committed to testing 10% of the motorcycle protective clothing market. Garments are bought from randomly selected stores, with the most widely distributed stock sold in a store purchased for sampling.

Additional to this testing, industry may commission testing of their own products. Testing is commissioned through the MotoCAP working group and conducted independently, with garments selected randomly from the company's warehouse.

**Developments to date**

The MotoCAP working group commissioned Deakin University Institute for Frontier Materials (DUIFM) to conduct testing for a 12-month pilot program, which began in May 2017. During this period, testing and rating were carried out following the draft MotoCAP protocols, with results provided to industry stakeholders only. This was to allow industry sufficient lead-in time to prepare for the program by altering their manufacturing processes or selecting better-performing garments for import. To that end, DUIFM provided their services to industry at low cost so they could test their garments for an indication of likely performance once formally tested for MotoCAP.

During this period the draft rating protocols were revised to ensure that final ratings would provide a realistic and reliable indicator of relative safety.

A website is also being established at <motocap.com.au>. The website will provide:

- background to riders about the needs for protective clothing
- detailed information on how the tests are conducted
- star ratings on clothing performance
- more detailed information, such as a breakdown of performance in the tests and advice on water resistance.

Testing for the MotoCAP public launch began in July 2018. The MotoCAP working group anticipates that the MotoCAP website with the first results will be launched in September 2018.