

Information and Implications for Equipment Manufacturers of Changes to Canoe Slalom Rules

Preamble

The introduction of the new 2011 Rules for Canoe Slalom (CSL) changes the requirements for Personal Protective Equipment to be used in ICF CSL Competitions.

More specifically, the new Rules require that helmets and personal flotation devices (buoyancy jackets) meet ISO standards as implemented in countries around the world.

The information contained herein is to assist equipment manufacturers to;

1. Understand the new ICF Canoe Slalom Competition Rules
2. Be aware of when and how the new Rules will be implemented at ICF CSL Competitions
3. Outline the process for manufacturers to register their equipment with the ICF
4. Provide a point of contact for further information if required.

What are the new Rules?

The Rules relating to Personal Protective Equipment have been adjusted to incorporate compliance with ISO and US Coast Guard standards.

The relevant new Rules are as follows:

19.2 Each competitor must wear a safety helmet with a strap fastened under the chin and a buoyancy jacket. Both must be in good working condition.

The structure, shape or composition of the buoyancy jacket/helmet must not be modified in any way.

The products must be from recognised and established manufacturers guaranteeing the quality of material and meeting industry standards.

19.2.1 A buoyancy jacket must comply with the current industry norms that is, ISO 12402-5 and/or US Coast Guard Type III certified (with a buoyancy of 60 Newtons) and be ICF registered.

At a competition the buoyancy jacket should be tested using a 6.12 Kg calibrated lead weight or its equivalent in other metals. The buoyancy jacket manufacturer markings and identification must comply with the ISO or US Coast Guard norms to allow the control of equipment by ICF officials.

19.2.2 The safety helmet must comply with EN 1385 and be ICF registered.

Each helmet shall be marked in such a way that the following information is easily legible for the user, and is likely to remain legible throughout the life of the helmet to allow the checking of the equipment by ICF Officials:

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The number of the European Standard;
The name or identification mark of the manufacturer;
The date of manufacture;
The designation "Helmet for canoeing and whitewater sports";

The CE norm has been removed as this standard was superseded by ISO in 2006 and no longer exists as a standard to certify buoyancy jackets.

The new Rules require all buoyancy jackets and helmets to:

- Meet the related norms,
- Carry the required marks and information,
- Not be modified in any way,
- Be listed on the ICF register,
- For buoyancy jacket , lift a 6.12kg weight (uplift equivalent to 60N),

When will the new rules be implemented?

Whilst the new CSL Rules are operational from January 17th 2011, Athletes will have until the 1st June 2011 to ensure their buoyancy jackets and helmets comply with the new Rules.

At ICF CSL competitions during 2011, Athletes may compete in equipment that is ISO/US Coast Guard approved, or for helmets compliance with EN 1385, even if the equipment item is not on the ICF registered list, as long as the equipment meets the other Rules criteria.

During 2011 Athletes are also able to compete in Buoyancy jackets that are EN 393 approved as long as the equipment meets the other rules criteria.

From 1st January 2012 full compliance with the new Rules will be compulsory and only items listed on the ICF register list will be permitted.

How will equipment be tested to ensure compliance?

Pre-event equipment control, as well as random checking throughout the event, will still occur.

The ICF will standardise the equipment control function at all ICF CSL competitions, including the measuring of buoyancy jackets and helmets.

The ICF is developing and will introduce a standardised cage at all ICF CSL competitions for the testing of buoyancy jackets. The cage will weigh 6.12kg.

There are now clear criteria in the new Rules to assess the helmet for compliance.

ICF Registration process

The registration process is to enable the accurate identification of equipment items suitable for all ICF CSL competitions.

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Using the Equipment Registration form, Manufacturers must forward the following information to the ICF Headquarters, with a copy to the Chair of the Canoe Slalom Technical Committee;

- The equipment reference
- A copy of the ISO and/or US Coast Guard certificate, or for Helmets the EN for the particular item
- Sample of the item of equipment

There is no fee to register items of equipment.

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