

Sun Hats & UV Protection

In September 2006, a new British Standard was published defining a test method and performance criteria for hats intended to give protection to the wearer against solar ultraviolet radiation.

This new standard BS 8466: 2006 published by the British Standards Institute, is supplementary to EN 13758-1 "Solar UV protective properties. Method of test for apparel fabrics" and specifies minimum ultraviolet transmission requirements for materials used in the construction of hats to give some protection from solar ultraviolet radiation.



This document is thought to be the first officially published standard to specifically deal with the subject of Hats for protection against the sun and whilst it is a British Standard, it maybe useful internationally in the assessment of protective head-wear.

The standard gives requirements for dimensions, design and labelling of the hats. It is however not intended for babies younger than 6 months and warns that such young children must be protected by other means than simply by wearing a hat.

The standard defines what is meant by "a hat", "solar ultraviolet radiation", "ultraviolet protection factor", "peak" and "brim". It also defines the minimum requirements for the materials used in the construction and it defines certain suitable hat styles and design criteria such as those with a full brim and the legionnaire style képi. It does not recommend the baseball style cap which does not have neck protection.

The standard requires that the hat be permanently labelled with size or with the intended age range and also with one of two alternative non permanent labels (depending upon age range) as shown below:

1. Adults and Children (3-14 years)

The hat will provide protection against solar ultraviolet radiation and conforms to BS 8466.

WARNING

Sun exposure causes skin damage.

The hat will only provide protection to areas directly covered by the hat and, to a lesser extent to areas shaded from the sun.

Shaded areas of the face and neck and other exposed areas of the body should be protected by a high factor sun cream.

2. Babies (6-36 months)

The hat will provide protection against solar ultraviolet radiation and conforms to BS 8466.

WARNING

Sun exposure causes skin damage.

The hat will only provide protection to areas directly covered by the hat and, to a lesser extent to areas shaded from the sun.

Protect babies they are particularly vulnerable. Sunburn during childhood can lead to skin cancer in later life.

Keep babies out of the sun.



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The test method itself is the same as that defined in EN 13758-1 and the test report should follow the requirements of paragraph 9 of the same standard.

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