



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
5 RESEARCH PLACE
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

January 24, 2020

Ms. Isabel D. Wright

Chair, ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces and Facilities

Mr. David Halstead

Chair, ASTM Subcommittee F08.53 on Headgear and Helmets

ASTM International
100 Barr Harbor Drive
West Conshohocken, PA 19428

Dear Ms. Wright and Mr. Halstead:

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff¹ is aware of bicycle helmets that use new technologies, such as inflatable, gel, and foldable mechanisms. When CPSC issued a safety standard for bicycle helmets in 1998 (16 CFR part 1203), it considered existing voluntary standards and technologies; however, these new technologies were not contemplated at that time. As a result, the test methods described in the CPSC standard may not be appropriate to assess fully the safety performance of helmets manufactured with the newer technology.

The CPSC supports emerging technologies that maintain or improve safety. To that end, CPSC staff requests ASTM to consider the safety potential of bicycle helmet designs that incorporate new technologies, and work to develop appropriate requirements and test methods that will determine whether these products are designed to ensure a level of safety that is at least as protective as the CPSC standard. CPSC staff looks forward to working with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Vineed Dayal
Regulatory Helmet Testing Program Manager
Directorate for Laboratory Sciences

CC: Patricia Edwards, CPSC Voluntary Standards Coordinator
Michael Nelson, CPSC Division Director of Mechanical Engineering
Joe Koury, ASTM International F08 Staff Manager
Jamie Huffnagle, ASTM International F08 Admin Assistant

¹ The views expressed in this letter are those of CPSC staff and have not been reviewed or approved by, and may not reflect the views of, the Commission.