

MotoCAP - Motorcycle Clothing Assessment Program

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<https://www.smarter-usa.org>

MotoCAP, (<https://www.motocap.com.au/>) or the Motorcycle Clothing Assessment Program, is a consumer information program designed to provide riders with scientifically-based information on the relative protection and breathability on a range of motorcycle protective jackets, pants, gloves and helmets available in Australia and New Zealand. Much of the gear rated is also available in the United States.

MotoCAP is supported by government and private road safety organisations across Australia and New Zealand. This allows MotoCAP to randomly select gear and purchase it for testing and rating, independent of industry. Industry can commission a rating of a specific garment, but MotoCAP remains impartial. MotoCAP gives industry no control over the ratings process and publishes the commissioned rating without input from the manufacturer, regardless of the result.

Get bang for your buck

It is often said that riders should buy the best gear they can afford, however MotoCAP testing has found no relationship between price and performance of gear. Riders can use MotoCAP to select garments with good protection at an affordable price.

MotoCAP standards

There are no standards for motorcyclist clothing in the United States. There are standards for motorcycle clothing in Europe (e.g. EN 17092) which have been developed for European riding conditions. The EN 17092 abrasion test is based on an asphalt road surface that is the predominant road type in Europe. MotoCAP uses an abrasion test which has been scientifically shown to behave the same as Australian and New Zealand chip seal roads. Chip seal is four and a half times more abrasive than asphalt.

Chip Seal vs. Asphalt

Chip seal is a type of pavement made up of small rocks or gravel held together by a binder. This binder can be either asphalt or tar. In the United States, chip seals are typically used on rural roads carrying lower traffic volumes. It's a popular choice because it's cheaper to install than asphalt pavement.

More familiar to most people, asphalt is a blacktop paving material made from crushed stone and bitumen. It offers a smooth, level surface that can withstand heavy traffic without damage. It's also reasonably easy to repair if it does sustain damage and is highly durable.

The difference between asphalt and chip seal road surfaces can be seen in the pictures below.



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MotoCap Gear Assessed

As of April 2023, MotoCap has posted tests as follows

- Jackets - 275 +
- Pants - 125 +
- Gloves - 150 +
- Helmets - 150 +

Jackets and pants are rated for “safety” and “breathability.”

Gloves are rates for “safety.”

Helmets are rates for “protection” and “comfort.”

Jackets, pants and gloves can be sorted by

- Primary material
- Riding style
- Gender
- Brand
- Weather
- Safety
- Breathability

Helmets can be sorted by

- Type
- Brand
- Protection
- Comfort
- Extra features
- Retention systems

The MotoCap website (<https://www.motocap.com.au/>) has excellent sections describing factors relevant to choosing gear. Jackets, pants and gloves include sections on material, impact protectors, stitching, zip fasteners and decorations, comfort and coverage.

Helmet selection has an overview section, types of helmets, helmet fit and helmet care. There are separate sections describing the Consumer Rating & Assessment of Safety Helmets (CRASH) program used to evaluate the relative performance helmets.