Product safety: GAA helmets

CCPC — Coimisiún um Iomaíocht agus Cosaint Tomhaltóirí | Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG

Our role

The CCPC is responsible for making sure that a range of consumer products sold in Ireland meet required safety standards. We also have a role in providing information to consumers about product safety.

We are the market surveillance authority for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for consumer use. GAA helmets are classified as PPE and, as such, must meet certain health and safety standards.

What is a GAA helmet?

A GAA helmet is a type of PPE worn by hurling and camogie players.

The purpose of a GAA helmet is to reduce the risk of concussion and to protect the player from a facial or eye injury, which could be caused by the striking of a hurl or sliotar.

What are the safety risks?

A GAA helmet that does not comply with the PPE Regulations, and does not have a genuine CE mark, is unlikely to protect you when needed.

If your GAA helmet does not meet the required safety standards, there is an increased likelihood that you could suffer:
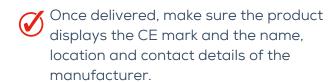- Concussion
- Facial injury
- Eye injury

Tips when buying your GAA helmet:

✓ Buy from reputable and trustworthy retail channels.

✓ If there is no CE mark, don't buy it.

✓ Be particularly careful if you are thinking of buying from an online marketplace or social media platform.

✓ Once delivered, make sure the product displays the CE mark and the name, location and contact details of the manufacturer.

✓ Buy from a business based in the EU for stronger consumer rights.

Safety checks for your GAA helmet:

✓ A safe GAA helmet will arrive already assembled. For example, you should not need to attach a faceguard.

✓ GAA helmets could also have fake CE marks - look out for any signs of poor quality, such as misspellings on the branding.

SAFETY FIRST

✓ Watch out for sharp edges, sharp points, rough surfaces, or protruding screws. Do not wear your GAA helmet if you find any of these dangers.

✓ Do not modify your GAA helmet in any way after you buy it. For example, do not cut a hole in, or remove, the faceguard.

If you think your GAA helmet is unsafe:

Contact the manufacturer or retailer with details of any faults or issues.

And you can report any product safety concerns to the CCPC using our helpline:
- 01 402 5555
- ASK@ccpc.ie

To find out more about GAA helmets:

Visit learning.gaa.ie/mouthguardshurlinghelmets

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