

File an Official Helmet Complaint with the NHTSA

This campaign started on Halloween. In the first 48 hours it has already doubled the number of "official" complaints over the last 12 years. It wasn't difficult to do, because not many people knew where to go to file an "official" complaint. Soon we hope every biker, motorcyclist, and motorcycle enthusiast knows and files a complaint about every helmet they have and don't like for whatever reason.

While there, please check the recall data. Over 500,000 recalled helmets are potentially in use, because the recall process is no good, and bad helmets are not accounted for. Many have all the right "DOT" labeling. Some full-face helmets have been recalled. FMVSS 218 is a farce! Manufacturers self-certify and put their helmets on the market. This is like the FDA not testing a drug, then forcing people to take it. Then later, the helmets might get recalled, but it is extremely rare that anyone ever gets notified. 32,052 Fullmer helmets were deemed to not conform with FMVSS 218 in June 2006, but were allowed to delay beginning recalls until February 2007. AFX FX3 supposedly recalled potentially 39,378 helmets in March 2003, but my friend bought one still in its' box last month, and it's got all the DOT labels.

Here is my view of things:

According to the NHTSA, the use of "DOT" helmets has increased, and the motorcycle death toll climbed for the ninth straight year. The latest NHTSA news is a deal with China regarding motor vehicles and safety equipment, (that should give everyone a warm fuzzy feeling, NOT). The DOT secretary who is supposedly an avid motorcycle enthusiast, clipped her front tire against the motorcycle in front of her, and went down, and thanks her helmet and issues a well-publicized PSA which does not mention her novice skills. The NHTSA cherry-picks the best data to create a "shock" message, as they do every year, to get the public (the majority voters in our democracy) all charged up against bikers. They want every state to mandate universal helmet laws, but Congress does not let them spend taxpayer money to lobby for legislation. So, they get their friends from the various governors highway safety programs, (who receive NHTSA funding and pass along a tiny portion to MRO's that run training courses). The GHSP talks legislators into introducing bills, but in almost all states, the SMRO's stand against helmets, regardless. Now, the NHTSA has the US DOT secretary and NTSB doing their lobbying for them.

Hey Bikers!

Please pass this message on to everyone you know who rides a motorcycle, and ask them to pass it along to at least 5 more bikers. We need to spread the word to every motorcyclist in the country. For years, we have been complaining about motorcycle helmets and about mandatory helmet laws, and for years, the government has not listened. They continue to force helmets onto our heads whether we like it or not.

It is time to COMPLAIN LOUDLY and OFTEN. Here's how:

The government has a computer system where we should all be filing our complaints. It is relatively unused. After several years, there are only about 20 complaints about motorcycle helmets on file.

Let's change that. Let's let the government know every complaint we have about helmets. Let's let them know how we do not like to be forced to wear helmets. We must complain loudly and often, or else they will think we are complacent.

Please file a complaint about your helmet now.

If you are fed up with helmets and mandatory helmet laws, and are ready to file a complaint right now, visit the NHTSA ODI Complaint Site at

<http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov>

Visit Bikers of Lesser Tolerance (B.O.L.T.) for more information at <http://boltusa.org>

This action is inspired by freedom fighters everywhere, such as Richard “Quig” Quigley, who used to call and complain to the NHTSA almost every day, even after his living wake, and almost until the day he died of lymphoma in 2007. Other freedom fighters, not just from B.O.L.T. but everywhere, constantly complain also. Let’s spread the word to start filing official complaints. Please help fight for our rights. Civil liberties are important!

Thank you!

Please be sure to pass this message along to everyone you know who rides motorcycles!