



*Owner's Manual*

## Introduction

Head protection is a complicated subject which cannot be fully discussed in this owner's manual. Regardless, before your first ride, you should read this owner's manual carefully for important information about your helmet.

You should also store this manual in a place where you can retrieve it for periodic review or if any questions arise. You should not use your new helmet until you have read and fully understand the contents of this manual.

## About Some of the Limits of Your Helmet

Your Bell motorcycle helmet is designed to reduce or prevent certain injuries, and studies show you are better off in an accident if you are wearing a helmet than if you are not. Regardless, a motorcycle helmet cannot protect against all foreseeable impacts or injuries. For example, your helmet cannot protect against spinal injuries, neck injuries, or any portion of the body it does not cover. In addition, it may not protect against injuries to areas the helmet does cover. For example, your helmet is made of energy absorbing materials which may or may not crush depending upon the impact. Sometimes the force of the impact is such that there is no crush, and sometimes the force of the impact is such that the material crushes completely, in either case at least some of the force of the impact is transmitted to the head and brain, and permanent injury or death may result. In addition, some head injuries are not caused by impacts. They are caused by other forces, like scrambling an egg just by shaking it. You do not have to destroy the shell to destroy the contents. Helmets cannot prevent this type of injury. Because of the wide variety of accident scenarios, it is impossible to tell when your helmet will or will not protect against injury or death.

## Short List of Do's and Don'ts:

1. **Do** choose a helmet which fits properly;
2. **Do not** choose a helmet which interferes with your field of vision or your ability to hear;
3. **Do** make sure that when the chin strap is fastened the helmet fits snugly all over your head, and low on your forehead so you can see the edge in your upper field of vision;
4. **Always** wear the chin strap tightly and securely fastened while riding;
5. **Do not** modify your helmet;
6. **Do** check your helmet before each ride for signs of wear or damage;
7. **Do not** "park" your helmet on mirror stalks orissy bars;
8. **Do not** carry your helmet on the motorcycle's helmet lock while riding;
9. **Replace** your helmet immediately if it shows signs of wear or damage;
10. **Replace** your helmet immediately after an impact, even if no damage is visible;
11. **Replace** your helmet at least every five years;
12. **Do not** loan or sell your helmet, or buy a used helmet;
13. **Do not** wear someone else's helmet;
14. **Clean** your helmet with soap and water only;
15. **Wear a helmet** whenever you ride;
16. **Ride safely**, and do not take risks just because you are wearing a helmet.

## Helmet Selection

Bell manufactures a variety of helmets at different price points with different features. All helmets distributed by Bell meet or exceed the United States Department of Transportation Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218 ("DOT Safety Standard"). Most helmets sold by Bell also meet the Snell Memorial Foundation ("Snell") M2010 standard.

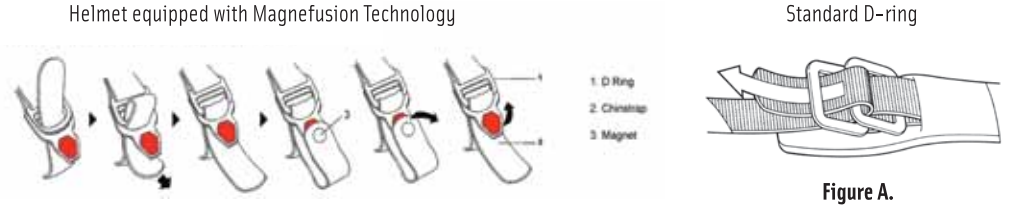
Depending upon the type of crash you are in, a helmet certified to meet the Snell M2010 standard may provide protection that a helmet certified to meet the DOT Safety Standard does not provide. Also, a helmet certified only to the DOT Safety Standard, may not cover as much of the head as a helmet certified to the Snell M2010 Standard. The Snell M2010 Standard has a roll off test that the DOT Safety Standard does not have. It is important for the helmet to be in place on your head to provide protection, consequently a helmet which passes the Snell M2010 Standard may stay on your head better than a helmet certified only to the DOT Safety Standard. To pass the Snell M2010 Standard a helmet must absorb more energy, thus in some higher energy impacts a helmet certified to Snell M2010 Standard may provide protection a helmet certified to the DOT Safety Standard does not provide.

*Bell recommends you purchase and wear the helmet which provides the greatest amount of coverage and the best impact protection for your intended uses.*

## Wearing Your Helmet

The best way to put on your Bell helmet is to gently pull the chin straps outward just enough to spread the helmet as you ease it over your head. With the exception of cruiser-style, "Shorty" helmets, if you can pull the helmet onto your head without having to spread the helmet, the helmet is too big, will not fit right and should not be worn. With the helmet on your head, thread the loose end of the strap through the double D-rings as shown in **Figure A**. Pull on the end until the strap

is snug, so it is almost uncomfortable, and will back against your throat. When riding, always wear the helmet with the chin strap in this position.



**WARNING!** The helmet chin strap must be securely fastened and snug under your chin and against your throat or the helmet may not stay on in an accident. If the helmet does not stay on, serious injury or death may result.

**WARNING!** Do not use a chin cup or wear the strap on the point of the chin. If the chin strap is not in the proper position or used properly, the helmet may not stay in position or may come off. Serious personal injury or death may result.

## Proper Fit

In order to work right, your helmet must fit right. If your helmet does not fit right, it may come off in an accident, in which case it will not provide any protection. Because many motorcyclists are killed each year when their helmets do not stay on in an accident, do not wear a motorcycle helmet that does not fit right. If the helmet does not fit right, do not wear it. Bell manufactures helmets of different sizes, and should have a helmet to fit your head.

**This section is very important:** Your helmet must be snug wherever there is helmet and must be comfortable. Here are two good tests the helmet must pass:

1. Fasten the chin strap under your chin so it is snug with your mouth closed and uncomfortable to open your mouth. Grab the helmet with both hands and try to move the helmet forward and backward and from side to side. The helmet does not fit right if your skin does not move with the liner of the helmet.
2. With the chin strap snug under your chin, grab the helmet in the rear at the base and try to pull the helmet forward on your head. Do the same test except grab the helmet in the front and try to roll the helmet rearward. If the helmet comes off your head, the helmet does not fit right and you should not wear it. This is also important. Check to make sure the chin strap is tight periodically while you ride. If the chin strap has become loose, immediately stop and re-tighten the chin strap.

**WARNING!** Do not wear a motorcycle helmet which does not fit right. Failure to follow this instruction could lead to serious personal injury or death.

If you have purchased one of our full-face models, check the position of your eyes in relation to the eye opening of the helmet. Check to make sure that the helmet is positioned on your head so that you have adequate downward and upward vision to properly operate your vehicle. Adjust the position of the helmet on your head to achieve this relationship. Re-adjust the chin strap, and check the fit as in Steps 1 and 2 above. *This is the position in which you should always wear your helmet.*

### **Protect Your Eyes**

*Always wear a face shield or goggles while riding.*

All Bell models are designed for use with eye protection. Some models come equipped with a face shield as standard equipment. If eye protection is not provided with the helmet, it is **YOUR** responsibility to obtain eye protection and use it.

Tinted face shields, goggles, or other forms of eye protection should not be used at night or under other conditions of poor visibility. Lenses damaged by scratches will reduce visibility, especially at night, and should be replaced. Petroleum products and other solvents may impair the optical properties and reduce the mechanical strength of shields and goggles.

On Bell helmets that come equipped with a face shield, the shield can be replaced. Make sure the pivots are tight before each ride.

**WARNING!** Failure to use proper eye protection can cause an accident and result in serious injury or death.

### **Check For Adequate Vision**

Always check for adequate vision. For example, when helmets are used in conjunction with goggles or other eye coverings, vision restrictions can occur. Make sure your motorcycle or ATV is equipped with effective mirrors, and use them for peripheral vision to enhance your direct vision of traffic and other riding hazards. It is the responsibility of each user to assure the adequacy of his or her vision prior to using this helmet.

**WARNING!** Never use a helmet or eye protection which restricts your vision so that you are unable to safely operate your vehicle.

### **Check for Adequate Hearing**

Research has shown that in many cases shielding the ears from wind noise results in the ability to more accurately detect important traffic sounds (such as horns and sirens). However, many riders prefer to have their ears exposed. Therefore, Bell makes available to its customers several different styles to fit a variety of needs and preferences.

**WARNING!** It is the responsibility of each user to determine which style is best suited to his or her needs and

damaged by chemicals and/or solvents contained in most paint or by careless handling during the repainting process.

#### **Inspection**

Since helmet damage is not always visible following an accident, it is always best to either replace your helmet once it has been subjected to a severe accident, or to return it to Bell for a thorough inspection. If you have owned your helmet less than five years, Bell will examine it at no cost and provide you with a written report of the damage. Helmet standards, approvals, and certification prevent a manufacturer from selling helmet parts (except face shields). Even if your helmet has not been impacted, we recommend that it be replaced periodically (every five years) to take advantage of advances in helmet design and construction.

#### **Five Year Limited Warranty**

Subject to the following, Bell Powersports, Inc. ("Bell") warrants to the original purchaser of each new Bell helmet purchased from Bell that the helmet when new is free of defective materials and workmanship. Any claim under this warranty must be made when the defect is first discovered, and in no event more than five years after date of purchase. At Bell's option, Bell may repair or replace the helmet. Bell's liability under this warranty shall not exceed the original purchase price. Bell expressly disclaims any liability for incidental or consequential damages.

This Limited Warranty is void if any other warranty or remedy is claimed or if the helmet has been modified in any way, including but not limited to painting or the addition of stickers or decals.

All other remedies, obligations, liabilities, rights, warranties, express or implied, arising from law or otherwise, are disclaimed by Bell. This disclaimer shall be construed to include, but shall not be limited to, any claimed implied warranty

of merchantability, any claimed implied warranty arising from course of performance, course of dealing or usage of trade, and any claimed implied warranty of fitness.

Some states do not allow some or all of the limitations set forth herein, or the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages. This Limited Warranty does provide the original owner with certain legal rights and recourse and the original owner may possess other rights or recourse, depending upon the state.