

A Guide to FIA and American Standards – Which Has the Best Life

ITEM	FIA	SFI / SNELL	BEST LIFE
Helmet	8859-2015 – no expiry 8860-2010 – no expiry 8860-2018 – no expiry 8860-2018 ABP – no expiry Additional standards apply to junior dragster drivers Motorsport UK helmet sticker must be applied	Snell SA2010 – end 2023 Snell SA2015 – end 2026 Snell 2020 – no end set yet Additional standards apply to junior dragster drivers Motorsport UK helmet sticker must be applied (available from scrutineering)	FIA
FHR (Frontal Head Restraint) or HANS (Head And Neck System)	8858-2002 – no expiry 8858-2010 – no expiry	SFI 38.1 – 5 years	FIA
Balaclava / Head Sock	8856-2000 – no expiry 8856-2018 – no expiry	SFI 3.3 – no expiry	EITHER
Suit <i>Check class regulations for required standards</i>	8856-2000 – 10 years 8856-2018 – 10 years FIA suit is equivalent to SFI 3.2A/5 One-piece (Babygro) only	SFI 3.2A/1 – no expiry SFI 3.2A/5 – no expiry SFI 3.2A/15 – no FIA equivalent, 5 years including year on tag SFI 3.2A/20 – no FIA equivalent, 5 years including year on tag One-piece or two-piece	SFI
Gloves & Boots <i>Check class regulations for required standards</i>	8856-2000 – no expiry 8856-2018 – no expiry FIA gloves and boots are equivalent to SFI 3.3/5	SFI 3.3/1 – no expiry SFI 3.3/5 – no expiry SFI 3.3/15 – no FIA equivalent, no expiry SFI 3.3/20 – no FIA equivalent, no expiry	EITHER
Driver Restraint System (Harness, belts)	8853/98 – 5 years 8853-2016 – 10 years (5 years after date on label) * * Unless in FIA competition, where date on label applies	SFI 16.1 – 2 years SFI 16.5 – 2 years	FIA
Fire Extinguisher Systems <i>Check class regulations for minimum capacities</i>	FIA Standard for plumbed-in Fire Extinguisher systems in Competition Cars (technical list 19) – 2 years recertification FIA 8865-2015 (technical list 52) – 2 years recertification 10 years maximum life for both standards	SFI 17.1 – 2 years recertification 6 years maximum life	FIA
Please note	ISO 6940 standard for flameproof clothing (suits, boots, gloves etc.) is not permitted for use in drag racing. ISO 6940 only certifies the material not the item's construction. Any item with an ISO 6940 label must also have a valid FIA or SFI certification. If an item is dual-certified, as long as one of the certifications is still valid, the item can be used. For example, a driver restraint system with an out-of-date SFI label but an in-date FIA label will be ok.		