

SECTION 1 - GALLET F1 FIRE HELMET

DESCRIPTION

The Brigades standard issue helmet is the Gallet F1. This helmet assembly consists of a pressure moulded shell with integral drop-down goggles and a semi reflective tinted visor both of which retract within the shell when not in use. The helmet weights approximately 1.2 kg and is available in standard size and large size. The helmet is issued complete with detachable head torch, reflective strips and rank markings where necessary. A red Gallet F1 helmet is issued to all personnel based at Wellington Fire Station to indicate they are qualified in Rescue Tender work.

ADJUSTMENT

Prior to issue, Stores staff will instruct the wearer in the correct method of adjustment to ensure that the Helmet fits securely and comfortably and that it interfaces with other items of PPE.

In the few cases where wearers experience extreme difficulty in obtaining a secure and comfortable a fit, an alternative make of helmet is available. Although this looks very similar to the Gallet Helmet it offers a slightly different style of fitting and may prove more secure.

ADJUSTMENT FOR EARLIER HELMETS

HEADBAND ADJUSTMENT (STANDARD SIZE)

The headband should be removed from the helmet by undoing the five velcro tabs and the rear velcro loop. The headband should then be placed on the wearer's head at an angle of 30° and adjusted to a comfortable and secure fit by use of the velcro adjuster. The headband is then refastened into the helmet by reversing the removal procedure.

HEADBAND ADJUSTMENT (LARGE SIZE)

The headband of the large helmet is adjusted in situ by means of a plastic stud adjustment similar to that found in a hard hat.

HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

Correct height adjustment of the helmet is essential to ensure correct alignment of the goggles across the wearer's nose.

To raise or lower the helmet, adjust the internal straps, which secure the head net to the rear of the helmet under the neck pads. These can be adjusted by means of the velcro adjuster.

ADJUSTMENT FOR LATER HELMETS

HEADBAND ADJUSTMENT

On the later helmets the headband adjustment is by means of a ratchet system which is operated by two yellow levers at the back of the headband which tighten the headband. The ratchet is released by two black release sliders also at the back of the headband.

To achieve the correct fit the helmet should be placed on the head with the headband adjusted to fully open. The wearer should then bring the two yellow ratchet adjustment levers together to tighten the headband until the helmet is secure on the wearers head and the headband is comfortable but not over tight.

To release the ratchet system the helmet should be removed and the two black release sliders moved towards the centre of the helmet allowing the release of the ratchet.

HEIGHT AND INCLINATION ADJUSTMENT

The height and inclination of the cradle may be adjusted by means of the support clips inside the front and rear of the shell to which the cradle is attached. There are two positions at the front of the helmet and three at the rear.

Correct height adjustment of the helmet is essential to ensure correct alignment of the goggles across the wearer's nose.

CHINSTRAP ADJUSTMENT

To adjust the chinstrap place the helmet on the head with the buckle fastened. Unfasten the velcro on the tail of the chinstrap and pull gently though the buckle until a comfortable and secure fit is achieved.

The helmet is correctly adjusted when:

- It remains in position when bending the head forward with the chinstrap unfastened.
- The visor does not touch the face when pulled down.
- The goggles rest comfortably on the nose.
- The field of vision is not affected

VISOR AND GOGGLES

On earlier helmets the operation of the visor can be eased or tightened by careful use of the adjuster on the left side of the helmet. On later helmets the tension is factory set and there is no adjuster.

On earlier helmets the goggles can be raised or lowered by means of the lever on the right side of the helmet and should be used on all occasions when safety glasses/goggles are required in conditions where the helmet is worn. On later helmets the goggles are raised or lowered by means of a small tab attached to the lower right hand edge of the goggles.

In all other situations when eye protection is required without head protection Bolle safety glasses will be worn. The integral goggles are Grade 1 impact resistant.

USE WITH FIREHOOD AND BA MASK

When wearing the helmet with a firehood and BA mask, the following procedure should be followed. The firehood should be worn off the head but inside the tunic collar. The BA mask should be donned in the normal manner and the firehood should then be pulled up over the head and adjusted to give a comfortable and secure fit around the BA mask. The helmet should then be placed on the head in the normal manner.

STOWAGE

When not in use the helmet should be stowed in the bag provided to protect it from direct sunlight, which may cause deterioration of the visor tinting. Care should be taken to ensure that helmets are stowed securely in fire appliances to prevent accidental damage to the helmet by it being dropped.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

The shell should be cleaned on every occasion when soot and burnt deposits affect the surface. Use warm soapy water and a soft cloth. No abrasives should be used. The visor and goggles should be cleaned using CLEAR PILOT, a bottle of which will be issued to each station and officer. The instructions on the container should be followed. Replacement supplies are available from stores.

SAFETY

The helmet shell should be routinely inspected for any damage. If any damage is discovered the helmet should be replaced.

The impact liners should be inspected for wear or distortion due to heat exposure. The helmet inner including the neck pads should be inspected for any signs of wear or damage.

HELMET TORCH

A Gallet F1 torch is designed to be attached to the Gallet helmet by means of a clip on the tight side of the helmet.

The torch is powered by four 1.5v type AA batteries which give an average duration of three to four hours. The bulb is a high intensity xenon type. Batteries should be fitted by following the instructional pictogram which is moulded into the body of the torch.

After 3-4 hours continuous use, the batteries in the lamp will need replacing. Each station should keep a stock of replacement batteries in order to maintain the operational readiness of the torch following discharge.

The torch is intrinsically safe, however it has an intrinsic safety certificate temperature rating of T2, whereas the Adalit BA Torch has a temperature rating of T4. Therefore the Gallet Helmet Torch should only be used for general purposes and not for BA use.

When replacing batteries, it is advisable to leave the torch switched on for three to four minutes to prolong the life of the bulb. Replacement bulb holder assemblies are available from Stores.