



HEADER TITLE

CSA-Certified Helmets Asset Toolkit



Introduction

Hockey helmets are essential for helping to protect hockey players of all ages from serious head injuries, but not all helmets are created equally. Trusted manufacturers work with third-party testing and certification organizations like CSA Group to rigorously test helmets for safety, durability, and effectiveness.

However, some counterfeit helmets have recently been discovered for public sale using forgeries of the CSA label. These helmets have not undergone proper safety standard testing and pose a potential risk to player safety.

CSA Group has set up a dedicated webpage **csagroup.org/helmetsafety** with resources and materials to help players, and their guardians, choose a helmet.

Additionally, enclosed in this toolkit, you'll find some additional resources:

- Tips when shopping for and selecting a CSA-certified helmet
- Frequently asked questions and answers
- A suggested email that can be modified and shared with your league
- Some suggested social media posts

Separate from this email, you'll also find an illustrated tip sheet that can be shared with your league, either digitally or printed.

Tips for Choosing a Certified Helmet

When selecting a hockey helmet, check for the round blue and red CSA label usually found on the back of the helmet. This label only appears on helmets that have passed strict tests and meet the requirements of the **CAN/CSA-Z262.1** safety standard. Only CSA-certified hockey helmets are approved for use in Hockey Canada sanctioned activities. Below are some tips to help you ensure that your helmet is CSA-certified:

1. **Check for the CSA Certification Label:** Look for a round, blue and red label on the back of your helmet. These tamper-proof CSA certification labels are applied with special adhesive so they will not peel off easily. A CSA certification label always includes three things: reference to the **CSA Z262.1** standard, a serial number and the year the helmet was manufactured. CSA certification is void if the CSA certification label is removed.



2. **Buy from Reputable Sellers:** Purchase helmets from well-known brands or established retailers. If buying from lesser-known brands, online or second hand, take extra steps to verify the helmet's authenticity.
3. **Look for a Booklet/User Manual:** New CSA-certified helmets always come with a booklet or user manual. For some helmets, the booklet or users' instructions may come as a QR code on the packaging, which can be scanned to access the booklet / user manual. If your new helmet doesn't have one of these, take extra steps to confirm its legitimacy.
4. **Quality Check:** To comply with the Canadian safety standard, a hockey helmet must be well-manufactured with high-quality materials and cannot be modified in any way. If a helmet feels unusually light in weight, flimsy, has loose parts, or appears to be modified, some additional steps are recommended, even if the helmet has a CSA label.
5. **Verify Online:** Whether purchasing new or used, [The CSA Group Product Listing](#) provides a convenient list of all CSA-certified products. To verify that your helmet has been certified, enter the name of the helmet model in the Keyword field; enter the manufacturer's name in the Manufacturer field; and select Recreational Safety Equipment from the Product Area menu. If the product appears to have a CSA certification label but is not found in the registry, consider submitting an [Incident Report on the CSA Group website](#).

FAQs

1. What steps can I take to ensure the helmet I purchase is legitimately certified?

Only CSA-certified hockey helmets are approved for use in Hockey Canada sanctioned activities. To verify that a hockey helmet meets Canada's national requirements, look for the round blue and red CSA-certification label, usually found on the back of the helmet. When shopping for a helmet, consider purchasing a well-known brand either directly or through an established retailer. All new CSA-certified helmets must include a booklet or user manual. If a new helmet's packaging does not include a booklet or manual, other actions should be taken to confirm its validity.

If you are purchasing a used helmet or one from a lesser-known brand or manufacturer – either directly or via an online retailer – or if a helmet feels unusually light in weight, flimsy, has loose parts, or appears to be modified, some additional steps are recommended, even if the helmet has a CSA label.

[The CSA Group Product Listing](#) includes all CSA-certified products. To verify the authenticity of a helmet's certification, simply:

- Visit the CSA Group Product Registry: <https://www.csagroup.org/testing-certification/product-listing/>
- Enter the name of the helmet model in the Keyword field; enter the manufacturer's name in the Manufacturer field, and select Recreational Safety equipment from the Product Area menu
- Select submit to verify
- If your helmet is not listed, report it by submitting an Incident Report at: <https://www.csagroup.org/submit-a-report>

2. Where are counterfeit helmets most likely to be found?

Most counterfeit CSA-certified helmets are purchased online directly from manufacturers or retailers, or at used sporting goods stores and direct sellers. When purchasing a new helmet, consider purchasing a well-known brand either directly or through an established retailer. If choosing to purchase a helmet from a lesser-known brand/manufacturer either directly or via an online retailer, the steps listed in Question #1 can help you verify that your helmet is certified even if the helmet has a CSA label.

3. How are CSA-certified hockey helmets tested?

Reputable hockey helmet manufacturers work with third party, accredited testing and certification organizations like CSA Group to [rigorously test](#) helmets in a controlled lab environment for efficacy, durability and safety against Canada's national safety standard (CAN/CSA Z262.1).

Testing a helmet takes approximately 5 hours, involving multiple tests to verify that it meets the requirements for construction, penetration, shock absorption, retention systems, field of view, markings, and user information, as outlined in the standard.

FAQs (continued)

4. How many counterfeit helmets are circulating in Canada?

It is important to note that most CSA-certified hockey helmets are legitimate, with counterfeit-CSA hockey helmets representing a small fraction of the total number of hockey helmets in circulation. Over the past several years, a handful of counterfeit CSA-certified helmets have been identified, but the exact number is impossible to confirm.

5. What are the risks associated with wearing a counterfeit CSA-certified helmet?

Wearing an uncertified hockey helmet potentially increases a player's risk of head injuries occurring on ice, whether from a fall or collision.

6. What are retailers doing to help prevent the sale of counterfeit CSA-certified helmets?

Reputable retailers typically ask manufacturers to verify that their products are CSA-certified before making them available to the public. However, many counterfeit CSA-certified helmets are sold directly to consumers online or are purchased second-hand. If you choose to purchase a helmet from a lesser-known brand/manufacturer either directly or via an online retailer, the steps listed in Question #1 can help you verify that your helmet is certified.

7. Do CSA-certified helmets expire?

In Canada, hockey helmets certified by CSA Group are approved at the time of manufacture. These certifications do not include a mandated expiration date. For guidance on when to replace a helmet, always refer to the user manual or product booklet, and inspect the helmet regularly for signs of wear or damage.

8. Customizing or modifying helmets, including replacing foam, etc., has become a popular practice among players; Are customized helmets still considered certified?

A helmet that has been modified, even if it bears the CSA certification label, is no longer certified.

9. What should I do if I think I've purchased a counterfeit CSA-certified helmet?

If you have doubts about the authenticity of a hockey helmet's CSA certification label, you can follow the steps in Question #1 to search for and verify the information on the helmet's certification label.

If the product has a CSA certification model number that is not found in the [The CSA Group Product Listing](#), you can report the case for further investigation on-line at [Submit an Incident Report | CSA Group](#).



Email Example

Subject Line: Not all helmets offer the same level of protection. Tips for selecting a CSA-certified helmet.

Dear Players and Guardians,

We hope you are as excited as we are for the upcoming hockey season! As you prepare for the season, it is important to remember that only CSA-certified hockey helmets are approved for use in Hockey Canada sanctioned activities. As part of our commitment to player safety, we are providing important information about how to tell the difference between a CSA-certified hockey helmet and a counterfeit one.

Stay Safe on the Ice with CSA-Certified Hockey Helmets

Hockey helmets are essential for helping to protect hockey players of all ages from serious head injuries, but not all helmets offer the same level of protection. Trusted manufacturers work with third-party testing and certification organizations like CSA Group to rigorously test helmets for safety, durability, and effectiveness. However, some counterfeit helmets have recently been discovered for public sale using forgeries of the CSA label. These helmets have not undergone proper safety standard testing and pose a potential risk to player safety.

How to Choose an Authentic CSA-Certified Helmet

When choosing a hockey helmet, look for the round blue and red CSA certification label, usually found on the back or inside of the helmet. This label means the helmet model has passed strict tests and meets the CAN/CSA-Z262.1 safety standards. Only helmets with this label, and that have not been modified, are approved for play by Hockey Canada.

Beware of Counterfeit Helmets

While most helmets with the CSA label are genuine, some counterfeits have recently surfaced. Wearing a helmet that hasn't been properly tested can increase the risk of injury.

How to Choose a CSA-Certified Helmet

CSA Group has compiled a list of tips to help you choose a certified helmet, which can be found on the [CSA website](#). A helpful tip sheet is also attached to this email.

Stay Safe and Play Smart

Remember, wearing a certified hockey helmet is crucial for your safety on the ice. Always verify your helmet's authenticity to help keep you and your loved ones protected.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.



Social Media Examples

Example 1:

Whether you're lacing up for your first game or coaching the next generation, helmet safety should never be taken lightly.

CSA-certified hockey helmets are tested to the highest national safety standard, for proper shock absorption, fit, and durability.

Look for the round blue and red CSA label – usually at the back or inside of the helmet – and check the [CSA Group Product Listing](#) to confirm that it's legit. Helmets with fake CSA labels are out there, and wearing an un-certified helmet potentially increases your risk of injury.

Pro Tip: A real CSA-certified helmet always comes with a user manual or booklet and will feel solid, not flimsy.

Learn more: csagroup.org/helmetsafety

Always #CheckTheLabel.

Example 2:

Beware of fakes!

Some helmets have been spotted with counterfeit CSA labels. Using an un-certified helmet may increase the risk of head injury.

Always look for an authentic, round, blue and red CSA label.

Learn more: csagroup.org/helmetsafety

Example 3:

Did you know?

When purchased new, CSA-certified hockey helmets always include:

- A CSA label (round, blue and red, with black text, and a serial number)
- A user manual or booklet

If either is missing or look wrong, the helmet could be counterfeit – and using it may increase your risk of head injury.

Learn more: csagroup.org/helmetsafety