



**European Fencing Confederation
Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime**

17.05.2015

Information Letter no. 15-2015

Dear Member Federations,

the EFC/CEE SEMI Commission is very much concerned about the actual safety and asks all federations to take a very special note of the attached document.

This does not only apply to the upcoming European Championships in Montreux but also to all other official events of the EFC/CEE in the future. It is also a help for all fencers, parents, and officials to be aware of these information when buying fencing equipment.

You are also invited to take part in our survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SecureFence2015>

Best regards,

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Recommendation: (issued by EFC-SEMI)

Weapon and equipment control at fencing events is organized to assure the safety of all participants. Its primary target is to detect flaws and problems in the equipment.

As m37.1 states that fencers are solely responsible for their equipment the control must be understood as a support for the fencers.

Rule m37.2 states that blades masks and clothing **must have a proper security label as defined per the annexes of the rules.**

As a consequence of this it is the duty of any SEMI delegate to refuse any equipment or part of equipment **NOT PRESENTING** proper security labels.

RMATER foresees a circular logo to be on the mask/clothing (see Figure 1)

For the mask the diameter should not be smaller than 25mm for clothing it should not be smaller than 50 mm. The following data **MUST** be present:

- Brand (manufacturer – marque)
- Date (month – year of production)
- FIE-logo



Figure 1- Label de qualité for clothing/masks

The same information must be on blades on the logo on the blades (figure 2). The shape is however different.

These are the only marks that are recognized on the terms of m37.2. The absence of this marks means that the equipment is not agreed and hence will be refused during control.

Manufacturers are not free to design or create their own label. They MUST comply to the FIE rules in order to allow a useful check in the realm of safety.

In order to help enforcing this the EFC-SEMI strongly recommends all national federations, clubs and fencers to insist with their manufacturers to have proof of homologation through a logo as foreseen by the FIE-rules.



Figure 2- Label de qualité for blades

Fencers should strictly and systematically insist on buying only clothing, masks or blades with the marks as foreseen by the FIE.

SEMI-delegates and controllers will be instructed to strictly follow the rules and systematically refuse any equipment that does not suffice the FIE-rules.



Recommendation: (issued by EFC-SEMI)

Argumentation:

Security has in the end no price. Accidents do not care if people “have no money to buy proper equipment”. If some people cannot fence because of financial problems in their respective countries, we must find ways to support them. Letting them fence with inadequate equipment is NOT a solution.

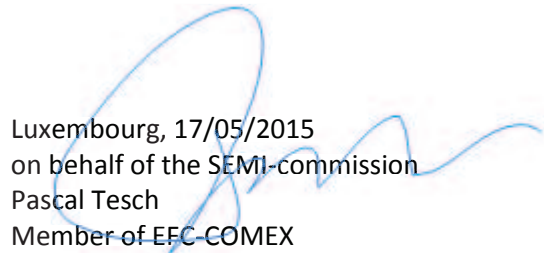
Manufacturers must comply with FIE rules – putting the correct logo on the equipment is not more complex than putting a phantasy logo.

Weapon controllers and the SEMI do rely on the trustworthiness of the manufacturers as in the field there is no chance of verifying each piece of equipment. Hence the importance of the use of the logos approved by the FIE.

By using and letting people fence with clothing with non-approved logos security control is jeopardized at the worst. Controllers will adopt an “I don’t care attitude” with DTs accepting people to fence with equipment that does not fulfil the standards.

The only way to enforce this is to systematically reject equipment that does not fulfil the criteria with a zero tolerance approach.

If fencers, clubs and federations insist that manufacturers comply we will advance one more step towards another improvement.



Luxembourg, 17/05/2015
on behalf of the SEMI-commission
Pascal Tesch
Member of EFC-COMEX
President of EFC-SEMI

About SEMI

SEMI is the technical commission of the EFC.

SEMI is in charge of technical and security topics around fencing.

Members of SEMI are P.TESCH (LUX), President; S.CLAUSEN (SWE); M.GNOCATO (ITA); P.HUGGINS (GBR); I.KOVAKIN (RUS); P.WAUTERS (BEL); M.ZMAIC (CRO)