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Bulletin

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Flight Helmets

The following guidance is provided by Night Flight Concepts, Inc. The intent of the bulletin is to educate and make aware to the users elements to consider when selecting a flight helmet. We would like to thank the US Department of Interior to providing information on the subject. More information is available on this subject via email to info@nvgsafety.com.

Flight Helmet Selection

When selecting a flight helmet, the paint job shouldn't be the first thing that attracts your attention. The flight helmet is a first-line-of-defense against head injury in the event of an aircraft mishap. Data supports the use of flight helmets when properly fitted to the user, worn correctly, and maintained to its original manufacture specification.

With the invent of online sales, flight helmets can be purchased as new or remanufactured without the benefit of onsite fitting or knowledge of the remanufacturing process. It is important that when purchasing a flight helmet, you know the history of the device. If a helmet was previously damaged and the shell was repaired in a way that did not meet the same specifications as when it was originally manufactured, the flight helmet may not protect the user as intended.

For a flight helmet to protect the user as designed, it is essential that it fits correctly. Some organizations have a minimum numbers of flight helmets for all users to share. Although the organization is attempting to provide their staff with a safety enhancing device, the flight helmet may not protect the user if not fitted to the user's specific dimensions'. In fact, a flight helmet that is not properly fitted to the user may cause injury or death in the event of an aircraft mishap.

When selecting a flight helmet for NVG compatibility, it is important to know the Center of Gravity (CG) of the flight helmet with the NVGs attached both in the stowed (up) and viewable (down) position. If a device has a forward CG with NVGs down, the user will need increased weight on the rear of the helmet. The best case scenario is to identify a helmet where the CG is close to neutral or center with the NVGs down. In this case, the user will need less counter weight, thus reducing strain on the neck. In addition, the less weight needed on the flight helmet, the less potential for neck injury of the user in the event of an aircraft mishap.

As for NVG compatibility with most flight helmets, this is not an issue. Prior to acquiring a flight helmet with the intention of using it with NVGs, contact the manufacturer or sale representative to verify helmet compatibility with the type of NVG mounting system to be used. If you don't what type of NVG mounting system to be used, attempt to get this information prior to making the helmet purchase. Once the flight helmet is built to your specification, returns are often not accepted.



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For comprehensive information on flight helmets selection, use, and the protection they provide review the Department of Interior Helmet User's Guide.

Learn More

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