



11 August 2025

## Fire and Emergency & New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union

### Joint Communication: New Helmet and Boots options

The Fire and Emergency and New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union Joint Equipment Working Party (EWP) made the following PPC recommendations to the DCE Service Delivery Design on the supply of Structural Firefighting Boots and Helmets for career firefighters.

Following a robust trial process, we agreed on the following items:

#### Helmets

Draeger Safeguard and Pacific F3D MKII structural firefighting helmets.

#### Boots

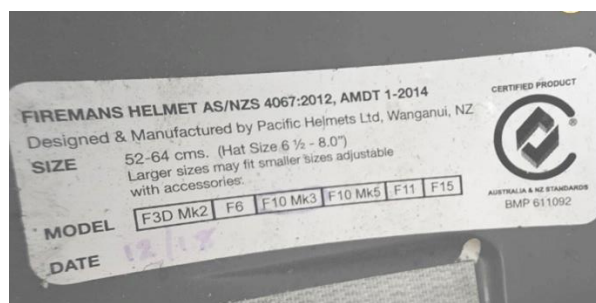
HAIX and Rosenbauer (pull-on and mechanical fastening) structural firefighting boots. Four different types in total.

#### Helmet distribution

This communication outlines the process for replacing the current gear, as well as the specifics about the new equipment.

The FENZ -NZPFU Equipment Working Party agreed to introduce a 7-year lifespan period for all Structural Firefighting helmets used by career staff. The manufacturer has not placed a lifespan on the helmet however a replacement after this time is being adopted. The Draeger Safeguard helmets and a limited supply of Pacific Helmets' F3D MKII will be available to order under the below parameters:

- **Firefighters who have known medical reasons requiring alternative PPE. Medical certificates are NOT required, but individuals may have been identified through the safe at work system.**
- **Any firefighter wearing F10 helmets that are more than seven years old- some of these original F10 helmets can be identified by the 'black plinth' on the front. All helmets will have a service sticker under the internal harness with a date visible. Pictured:**



#### **Features of the Draeger Safeguard structural firefighting helmet:**

- At 1.2kg it is the lightest structural firefighting helmet available on the market
- Suited to rounder-shaped faces
- Three-quarter jet style helmet (not a full jet style), which allows the wearer to use slim-line hearing protection
- Integrated face shield
- Internal drop-down glasses
- Modern technology and design



*Draeger Safeguard Helmet*

The Pacific Helmet F3D MKII is the alternative to the Draeger Helmet, however we have been advised that this is being superseded Pacific Helmets' new F6H (F3D MKII replacement). This helmet is currently undergoing AS/NZ Standards testing, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Once this helmet passes its certification, we will proceed to an operational trial to ensure the helmet's suitability, compatibility, and functionality for use by firefighters.



*Pacific Helmets' F3D MKII*

At the completion of the trial of this helmet and depending on its performance, the Core Response Capability Design team will action the ordering and ongoing supply of the F6H to career firefighters. In the meantime, we will continue with the initial structured dispatch of the Draeger Safeguard helmet and a limited supply of Pacific Helmets' F3D MKII as detailed above.

#### **Features of the Pacific helmet F6H (pending certification):**

- Traditional style design
- New Halo internal harness system, noted as easy to decontaminate
- External visor
- Internal drop-down glasses
- Modern technology and design

## Boots distribution

We currently have a limited supply of structural firefighting boots for distribution; The first stage of the distribution process will prioritise

- **Firefighters who have known medical reasons requiring alternative PPE. Medical certificates are NOT required, but individuals may have been identified through the safe at work system.**
- **Firefighters with fit issues with the current Skellerup Gumboot or Vulcan Pro D Level 2 Boot.**

The sizing of the Haix and Rosenbauer boots is very different to our existing L2 footwear, and this needs to be understood before ordering – Haix boot sizing run small and Rosenbauer boot sizing run large.

***For example: A firefighter currently wearing a size US10 in a Magnum Vulcan boot may need to order a US11 in a Haix brand boot but should be able to order a size US10 in the Rosenbauer brand.***

### Features of the Haix Fire Eagle Vario boot:

- Easy pull on and off
- Suitable for narrow to regular fit feet (av. boot weight = 1.2kg/1200g)



Haix Fire Eagle Vario

### Features of the Haix fire Eagle High (not yet arrived)

The Fire Eagle High is currently not available due to logistical Issues. There will be further communications upon its arrival.

- Mechanical fastenings, ankle support (US 10=2.45kg)
- Simple lacing system that can accommodate larger calves.



Haix Fire Eagle High

### Features of the Rosenbauer boot:

- **Rosenbauer B1:** easy pull on and off, suitable for normal to wider feet (size 43/US 9.5 = 2.4kg)
- **Rosenbauer B4:** mechanical fastening, enhanced ankle support, suitable for wider feet (size 43/US 9.5 = 2.6kg)
- **Please use** the Rosenbauer sizing chart to match your measurement to the correct size



**B1**



**B4**

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### Replacement and distribution process for boots and helmets- continued

All current F3D MKII structural firefighting helmet wearers will continue to use that helmet for the agreed seven-year life from the date of issue. This seven-year life has been agreed upon between Fire and Emergency and the NZPFU through the Equipment Working Party. This decision took into consideration international best practice, manufacturers' advice, and operational factors such as exposure to sunlight and frequency of use and will apply to all new helmets from now.

- The above items will be available via the uniform portal, in a closed pack, only accessible by GM/DM.
- Firefighters meeting the above criteria, requiring these items, must engage with DM/GM for ordering.
- We anticipate opening the pack for ordering for one month to collate orders.
- The pack will then be closed temporarily, and orders will be picked and shipped.
- We will repeat this process until stock is exhausted.
- The closed pack allows for a DM/GM who is authorised, to obtain these new items to manage, as per the criteria set out.
- We aim to reach as many Firefighters as possible who require them with this initial order of boots: with distribution of 1 pair per person, due to the limited stock.
- Expectation is that Districts will manage their budgets accordingly.
- We anticipate that stock will be available to order in September, except for the Haix Fire Eagle High Boots which are delayed currently.

### Ongoing Support:

After the initial distribution, we will continue to monitor feedback.

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Thank you for your cooperation in this important upgrade process. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact your local Uniform Representative.