

INTRODUCTION

Equipment Control is an integral part of all Australian Fencing Federation tournaments. It is in place to ensure that all competitors comply with a minimum level of safety, and so that the running of our competitions is not held up by weapons issues. By setting a standard for all fencers, this also reflects the pride that we have in our sport and its honourable history, and aims to establish an equitable benchmark for fair competition.

The information below is divided up into two parts – things that are tested for in Equipment Control and things that are tested on the piste.

EQUIPMENT CONTROL

Note that items that will be tested on the piste (below) are not tested during Equipment Control. The reference document for the various measurements below is the FIE's Rules for Competitions, Book 3 – Material Rules (Chapters 1-2). Where the FIE rule differs to Australian Equipment Control testing for specific measurements of impedance, the FIE figures are mentioned [in square brackets].

Where a fencer disputes the decision by those people authorised to undertake Equipment Control regarding whether an item is passed or not passed, this can only be reviewed by the DT at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the relevant event. The DT's decision will be final in this case.

RELEVANT EVENTS

This document applies to the following events:

- All Open and Veteran National events
- Under-15s / Cadet Nationals
- Junior Nationals
- Under-23 Nationals

The AFF may choose to apply this in part or in whole to any other event. Where that is the case, states will be informed in advance of the relevant event so that they may inform their members.

As in m25.7:

MASK SAFETY SYSTEM

The mask must contain two different safety systems at the rear of the mask, with the two ends of the straps of the systems firmly affixed to the two sides of the mask. These straps must meet the following requirements:

Mask with metallic tongue

- The central band (strap) should not be less than 45 mm wide.
- The strap must be positioned low enough across the rear of the cervical region that the position of the strap on the head ensures that the mask cannot slide off.
- The band must be in solid material : when stretched the material should not sustain permanent plastic deformation and should quickly return to its original shape and size
- The fastening system must be doubled: it must be closed with a double security system (this means that the Velcro™ has to be attached at least twice).
- The Velcro™ must have a minimum breaking strain of 750 N/cm
- The tags to which the strap is attached by Velcro must be secured to each side of the mask with the same breaking strain.

Mask without metallic tongue

- The position of the main strap must be low enough to ensure that the mask cannot slide off; the correct distance should be decided by the manufacturer (typically 25/30 mm).
- The strap must incorporate 3 fixing points.
- The use of a magnetic strap, already existing, remains mandatory.

WEAPON-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

FOIL

Component	Check
Blade	FIE notation
Guard	No substantial deformities where points could catch. Wires sheathed up to the connection with no tape covering them. . No rust or oxidation on guard. Has a pad to protect wires from fingers No wires projecting from the connections.
Body wire	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum No exposed metal cable Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is tested, even when cable is flexed. Crocodile clip must be at least 10mm wide, soldered and run separately for at least 40cm
Mask wire	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum Wire to be soldered in place to crocodile clips at both ends, and crocodile clips at least 10mm wide.

	No exposed metal cable
	Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is tested, even if cable is flexed.
	Must be straight (not coiled), clear or white, 30-40cm (from AFC1-2017 onwards)
Lame	No holes
	Conductivity – [FIE: 5 ohms resistance maximum between all points] 5 ohms between each point, though small areas, not exceeding approx. 5x5cm, may have a resistance of up to 10 ohms if they are on the collar or back, excluding the tag for the mask line
Glove	No holes (inc body wire hole) per m25.6. No structural damage to glove (excluding normal wear to the palm).
Mask	FIE notation; no visor masks permitted
	Rubber / tape / cloth seal around edge of face intact and safe and adhering to mesh
	No holes in mesh
	No rust or oxidisation
	Mesh insulation reasonably intact
	Rear strap or clasp intact, doubled according to m25.7 with the manufacturer's approved system. Velcro working and stitching holding it down, brackets firmly attached to the mesh of the mask. Where fixing is spring-based, spring should not be loose
	[FIE: No dents in mask mesh]. Small dents acceptable as long as there is no sign of damage to or separation of the wires in the mesh
Mask - bib	No holes
	[FIE: fixing points]. Masks without a spring (metallic tongue) attachment system must have a magnetic strap on the bib. As it may not be possible to check this in the case of detachable bibs, the referees will also confirm this on the piste.
	Conductivity – [FIE: 5 ohms] 10 ohms resistance maximum esp. in stitching ribs.

EPEE

Component	Check
Blade	FIE notation
Guard	No substantial deformities where points could catch. No rust Wires sheathed separately up to the connection with no tape covering them. Pad in place to protect wires. No wires projecting from the connections.
Body wire	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum No exposed metal cable Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is tested, even when cable is flexed.
Glove	No holes (inc body wire hole) per m25.6. No structural damage to glove (excluding normal wear to the palm).
Mask	FIE notation; no visor masks permitted Is not permitted to have conductive bib (even if taped at the bottom). For masks with replaceable bibs, and the mask has already passed through Equipment Control for foil, bib must be stamped (not mask). Rubber / tape / cloth seal around edge of face intact and safe and adhering to mesh No holes in mesh No rust or oxidisation Rear strap or clasp intact, doubled according to m25.7 with the manufacturer's approved system. Velcro working and stitching holding it down, brackets firmly attached to the mesh of the mask. Where fixing is spring-based, spring should not be loose [FIE: No dents in mask mesh]. Small dents acceptable as long as there is no sign of damage to or separation of the wires in the mesh [FIE: fixing points]. Masks without a spring (metallic tongue) attachment system must have a magnetic

strap on the bib. As it may not be possible to check this in the case of detachable bibs, the referees will also confirm this on the piste.

SABRE

Component	Check
Blade	S2000 notation Button ("fold-over") on tip intact
Guard	No substantial deformities where points could catch. No burrs on edge which could cause injury. Insulation on lower part of guard and pommel
Body wire	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum Crocodile clip must be at least 10mm wide, soldered and run separately for at least 40cm. No exposed metal cable Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is tested, even when cable is flexed.
Mask wire	Conductivity – 2-4 ohm [FIE: 1 ohm] resistance maximum Wire to be soldered in place to crocodile clips at both ends, and clips at least 10mm wide. No exposed metal cable Does not exceed maximum resistance when cable is tested, even when cable is flexed. Must be straight (not coiled), clear or white, 30-40cm
Lame	No holes, esp under arms Conductivity – [FIE: 5 ohms resistance maximum between all points] 5 ohms between each point, though small areas, not exceeding approx. 5x5cm, may have a resistance of up to 10 ohms if they are on the collar or back, excluding the tag for the mask line
Mask	FIE notation; no visor masks permitted Conductivity – [FIE: 5 ohms] 10 ohms resistance maximum esp. in stitching ribs. No holes in mesh No projecting points which could catch a blade (esp corners of the bib or their covers).

No rust or oxidation

Rear strap or clasp intact, doubled according to m25.7 with the manufacturers approved system. Velcro working and stitching holding it down, brackets firmly attached to the mesh of the mask. Where fixing is spring-based, spring should not be loose

[FIE: No dents in mask mesh]. Small dents acceptable as long as there is no sign of damage to or separation of the wires in the mesh

[FIE: fixing points]. Masks without a spring (metallic tongue) attachment system must have a magnetic strap on the bib. As it is may not be possible to check this in the case of detachable bibs; the referees will also confirm this on the piste.

Cuff / glove

No holes. No structural damage to glove (excluding normal wear to the palm).

800N notation (from AFC2-2014 onwards)

Minimum 5cm on inside for connection.

Conductivity – [FIE: 5 ohms resistance maximum between all points] 5 ohms between each point, though small areas, not exceeding approx. 5x5cm, may have a resistance of up to 10 ohms

ON-PISTE TESTING

FOIL

Component	Check
Blade	Equipment Control mark
	Weight (will lift 500g weight)
	Bend on blade less than 1cm from guard to tip
Body wire	Equipment Control mark
	Securing device for wire to weapon
Mask wire	Equipment Control mark
Lame	Equipment Control mark
	Covers target; i.e. the flat base reaches top of the hip bone when on guard.

Mask	Equipment Control mark. Two independent attachment systems correctly applied.
Glove	Equipment Control mark
Breeches, Jacket, Plastron	FIE notation

EPEE

Component	Check
Blade	Equipment Control mark
	Weight (will lift 750g weight)
	Bend on blade less than 1cm from guard to tip
	Both grub screws present
	Gauge (clearance when tip depressed)
	Gauge (clearance when tip not depressed)
Body wire	Equipment Control mark
Mask	Equipment Control mark. Two independent attachment systems correctly applied.
	Reaches tips of collar bones
Glove	Equipment Control mark
Breeches, Jacket, Plastron	FIE notation

SABRE

Component	Check
Blade	Equipment Control mark
	Bend on blade less than 4cm from guard to tip
Body wire	Equipment Control mark
Mask wire	Equipment Control mark
Lame	Equipment Control mark
Mask	Equipment Control mark. Two independent attachment systems correctly applied.

Cuff / Glove

Equipment Control mark

Breeches, Jacket, Plastron

FIE notation
