STANDING UP FOR SAFETY

For nearly 40 years, Stand 21 has championed motor sport safety, through designing, testing and manufacturing a wide range of driver safety equipment.

Since 1970, Stand 21 has been a leading manufacturer of bespoke equipment for racing drivers, from helmets and boots to Head And Neck Support (HANS) devices.

Yves Morizot, Stand 21 founder and chairman, said: “As a top company in our sector, we must, of course, offer products meeting the most demanding standards established or recognised by the FIA, providing the best comfort and allowing our customers to create their dream equipment.”

While all of Stand 21’s products adhere to stringent FIA standards, or FIA-approved standards such as Snell or SFI, they are still widely customisable. Over 90 per cent of Stand 21 racing suits manufactured are made-to-measure and/or are custom designed.

General Manager Romain Morizot said: “Today, breathable racing suits are everywhere. However the world’s first breathable racing suit was developed over 20 years ago by Stand 21. Drivers were convinced very quickly and now they won’t wear anything else.”

Stand 21 maintains an ongoing dialogue with the FIA and FIA Institute as well as medics and drivers to keep abreast of the latest developments in motor sport safety. One recent example of this collaboration is a medical research programme called Heat Stress, which aimed to make organisers, car makers, teams and drivers aware that heat stress is a real threat that can lead to driver error, collapse or even worse.

Romain Morizot said: “There is no need to drive in hot conditions and feel these terrible effects. The important thing is that the sweat does not saturate the inside of the clothing. A lot of people can relate to this issue, as it is a very common problem among skiers.”

Launched in 2003, the Stand 21 Heat Stress program lasted over two years and involved an international team of medical specialists, the health department of the French army and major motor sport teams, resulting in...
more than 500 pages of precise data on the phenomenon. Today, the full range of Stand 21 racing suits is labeled ‘Heat Stress Control’ and made of a breathable fabric enabling them to be FIA 8856-2000 homologated with just two layers.

But safety also means offering the best advice and services to customers. Founded in Dijon, France, Stand 21 products are distributed through an exclusive worldwide network of retailers that are fully aware of the FIA rules as well as the Stand 21 products and their many technical specifications.

Romain Morizot said: “The members of our network come to Dijon every year to be updated on our product range and to find out what is new. In more than 20 countries, they attend motor sport events to inform our customers about the latest FIA standards and technical solutions. This has been our philosophy for over 38 years. What can be more reassuring for a driver than knowing he will be assisted on his personal safety at more than 300 events around the world?”

Thanks to the quality of its products and services, Stand 21 has built a strong reputation, being trusted by the creators of the HANS device to take on one of only two world manufacturing licenses to produce it.

All Stand 21 helmets are FIA/HANS approved and equipped with HANS post anchors. After having largely developed the original HANS System, Stand 21 recently launched a brand new and more affordable version called the Racing Series.

Gérald Bonnet, head of the Stand 21 Research and Development department, said: “The specifications for the HANS Racing Series were quite simple. We needed to produce a cheap and versatile HANS, yet still optimise driver comfort. Stand 21 is the only HANS world manufacturer to have designed made-to-measure devices for Formula One and the World Rally Championship.”

To date, Stand 21’s Research and Development department has a solid knowledge of the different upper body morphologies and uses the most appropriate manufacturing techniques to its advantage. The carbon moulding process at very high pressure used for the HANS Racing Series makes it possible to manufacture a piece weighing less than 700 grams (as opposed to 1,050 grams for the HANS American Sport Series NDLR), which is still able to meet the demanding standards set by the FIA in ensuring maximum driver safety.

For cost reasons, Stand 21 chose a single 20 degree angle model in medium and large sizes (the most common angle and sizes in motor racing). The HANS Racing Series design largely fits the various anatomical configurations especially in terms of clavicles, and the legs of the system were re-designed accordingly.

Stand 21 also took into account the shapes of the current helmets available on the market to offer a brand new top part – the upper HANS. From the preparation of the specifications, it took the company over a year and a half of developing and testing prototypes to get to the HANS Racing Series.

But even after all of these developments and more, Yves Morizot insists this is only the beginning. As he said: “For nearly 40 years, Stand 21 has been a pioneer of motor racing safety and we’re just getting warmed up.”

Pedro Couceiro, who competes in the International GT Open championship, wears the Stand 21 Air Force racesuit featuring an air intake duct to force air between the suit and undergarment.