

Alpinestars S-MX1.1

Ankle-high cut down versions of Alpinestars' S-MX 5 sports boots, with toesliders, a gearchange pad and a reinforced sole. There's a plastic toe box, heel guard and an elasticated section at the top of the heel section, with an air vent on each boot. They are marked as passing the CE short boot test, to level two for abrasion and cut resistance and level one for sole rigidity.

Sizes: 4-13 (men) 2-8.5 (women)

Colours: Black, black/grey, black/pink

■ **Contact:** www.alpinestars.com



£129.99

Puma Street Bike

These short Pumas are made from supple leather with a reinforced sole that has a slightly raised heel for extra walking comfort. There's plenty of elasticsation on the top of the feet to ensure good fit and they secure with a zip and Velcro. There's no visible markings to show CE approval. These boots have more a trainer feel to them, albeit with a tough bike boot sole, than all-round protective biking kit.

Sizes: 4-14 **Colours:** White/red, black/white, black

■ **Contact:** www.puma-moto.com



£119.99

Dainese Scarpa Dyno

Classy boots, cut down from Dainese's race-style offerings, with a stiff reinforced sole and plastic toe and heel boxes, plus a gearchange pad. They fasten with a speed-lace system that's covered by an elasticated tongue to ensure a snug fit. They're marked as CE-approved for the short boot test, with level one performance in impact protection and sole rigidity, and a higher level two score in cut resistance.

Sizes: 5-11.5

Colours: Black, black/white

■ **Contact:** www.dainese.com



£164.99

Falco Novo 2

The short answer to Italian company Falco's sports boot, which fastens with a Velcro strap and boasts low-profile toesliders and plastic protection where foot meets gear lever and also at the heel. There are ankle sliders higher up the boots' uppers and the sole is reinforced. The top of the foot is elasticated to help ensure a comfortable and close fit. There are no CE markings.

Sizes: 4-10.5 **Colours:** Black

■ **Contact:** www.tri-motive.com



£119.99

Forma Freeride

More like a riding shoe with ankle coverage, a leather upper and a stiff sole. There are no heel or toe boxes, just a reinforced heel. But the Freerides are marked to meet the short CE-approval standard, with level two performance in abrasion and cut resistance and level one performance in crush resistance. They are also equipped with a Drytex waterproof and breathable membrane.

Sizes: 5-13 **Colours:** Black

■ **Contact:** www.formaboost.com



£139.99

Richa Slick

Solid, good-value boots with all the protective boxes ticked, except for the obvious lack of a full-length calf. They have a reinforced sole, toe and heel boxes, a protective panel at the rear, and an extra layer of material to protect the gearchange zone. There's hard protection for the ankle bones and a Hipora waterproof membrane – but no CE markings to show a test pass.

Sizes: 4-13 **Colours:** Black

■ **Contact:** www.nevis.uk.com



£59.99

JARGON BUSTER**Short or mid-length**

If we've described a boot as short it's more like a shoe with a little higher coverage, while mid-length boots generally reach the ankle bones.

CE approval

None of the boots here would pass the full CE safety test for boots, which demands a 16cm height from the top of the sole to the top of the upper. But a 'short' CE standard is used, which includes aspects of the CE test that still relate to short boots. They're tested for protection against abrasion, cuts and lateral crushing forces (like a bike landing on the foot). The top performers in each test score level two, with level one for lower performance. Boots that pass the test will usually show a label.

**Heel and toe boxes**

Plastic cups designed to protect the toes and heels from being crushed under the weight of a bike. Steel toecaps are not a good idea, because sharp edges can cause injuries rather than prevent them.

Reinforced sole

A suitable bike boot sole will always be stiff so it can protect against impacts, twisting forces and also support the weight of a bike that's trying to laterally crush a rider's foot. If boots are CE marked, they've faced tests to prove they resist crushing forces.