

1. Description:

OSHA requires head protection if there is a risk from falling objects or there is a risk from contact with live electrical conductors. Wearing appropriate head protection can prevent serious injuries.

2. Examples of Head Hazards:

- Head trauma due to contact by falling objects, e.g., materials falling from mobile work platforms or fixed work platforms.
- Electrical shock or burns due to contact with exposed electrical conductors (electricians).
- Extreme cold from working in cold temperatures.
- Various head and neck injuries due to striking low overhead objects.
- Extreme cold or heat.

3. Types of Head Protection:

- All hard hats must meet the ANSI Z89.1-2014 or other referenced standard.
- Type I Protective Helmet (hard hat) – protects from falling objects only.
- Type II Protective Helmet (hard hat) – protects from falling objects and lateral blows.
- The two types of protective helmets are divided into three (3) classes. Class E – can withstand 20,000 Volts
 - Class G – Can withstand 2,200 Volts
 - Class C – Offers no protection from electric al energy
- Bump caps – Provide protection solely from bumps and are not rated for protection against, falling or lateral moving objects or electricity. Bump caps are not a replacement for a rated hard hat
- Helmet Liners (protection from cold).

4. Hard Hat Markings:

Each hard hat and suspension will be marked with the following:

- The manufacturer's name or identifying mark
- Date of manufacture
- The legend "ANSI Z89.1-(with the appropriate year)
- The type and class
- Approximate size
- If reverse donning is permitted the hat will carry the following symbol

5. Employer Head Protection Program Requirements Overview:

- Perform and document a hazard assessment and identify where specific types of head protection is required.
- Provide task/job specific/appropriate head protection for employee's use based on the identified hazards.
- Train employees on the proper selection and use of head protection.

6. Employee Responsibilities Overview:

- Wear job appropriate head protection in accordance with the employer's requirements and training.
- Inspect head protection including the suspension prior to each use to ensure it is in good condition. Discard and replace damaged head protection.
- Do not alter the hard hat or suspension.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance and storage.
- Maintain and keep the head protection clean according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not paint, mark or apply stickers unless this practice is approved by the hard hat manufacturer.
- Use only hard hat attachments approved for use by the hard hat manufacturer, e.g., ear muffs or face shield, helmet liner.
- Do not wear the hard hat backwards unless the reverse donning mark is on the hard hat.