



Hard Hats – What do all the Markings Mean?

OSHA guidelines for head protection are referenced in 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1910.135 and 1926.100, stating that "Each affected employee shall wear protective helmets when working in areas where there is a potential for injury to the head from falling objects." The standard also addresses situations in which electrical hazards are present.

There are labeling and marking requirements that you should be aware of when selecting an appropriate hard hat for the job.

Required Label

It is important to know that all hard hats that adhere to ANSI/ISEA standards contain a label of certification on the inside of the hard hat shell. If your current hard hat label is missing or is no longer legible, it is recommended that you replace your hard hat as soon as possible.

Each hard hat must have the following information clearly marked inside the hat:

- The manufacturer's name or identifying mark
- Date of Manufacture
- The legend, "ANSI Z89.1-2014"
- The Type and Class Designation
- The approximate head size range

Type Designation:

- Type I - Designed for impacts to the top of the head
- Type II - Designed for off-center, side or top impacts

Class Designation:

- Class E (Electrical) Hard Hats are designed to reduce exposure to high voltage conductors, and offer dielectric protection up to 20,000 volts (phase to ground).
- Class G (General) Hard Hats are designed to reduce exposure to low voltage conductors, and offer dielectric protection up to 2,200 volts (phase to ground).
- Class C (Conductive) Hard Hats differ from their counterparts in that they are not intended to provide protection against contact with electrical conductors.

Optional Performance Feature Markings:

Reverse Donning: Helmets marked with two arrows curving to form a circle can be worn facing frontwards or backwards in accordance with the manufacturer's wearing



instructions. They pass all testing requirements, whether worn frontwards or backwards.

Lower Temperature (extreme cold): Hard hats marked with an “LT” indicates that the hard hat meets all testing requirements of the standard when preconditioned at a temperature of -30°C (-22°F).

High Visibility: A helmet with the optional mark “HV” meets ANSI requirements for high visibility colors.

Higher temperature: Hard hats marked with an "HT" indicate that the hard hat meets all testing requirements of the standard when preconditioned at a higher temperature of 140° F +- 3.6° F (60° C +- 2° C).

High Visibility: A helmet with the optional mark “HV” meets ANSI requirements for high visibility colors.

SAFETY REMINDER

Preventing accidents and injuries is the best strategy. Follow all safe work practices to avoid needing first aid in the first place.