



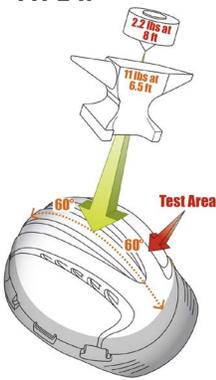
PROTECTIVE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

# ADDRESSING FAQs REGARDING HARD HATS FOR CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

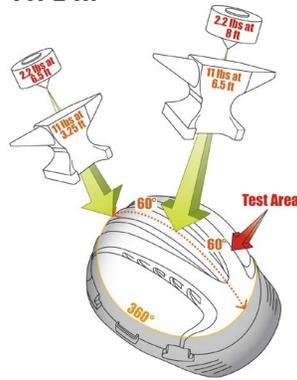
## 1. What is the difference between Type I and Type II Hard Hats?

**ANSWER:** Type I hard hats are designed to reduce force from an impact only to the top of the head. Type II hard hats are designed to reduce force from an impact to the top or sides of the head. The side impact protection is achieved from an integrated foam impact liner.

TYPE I:



TYPE II:



## 2. What is the difference between Class C, Class G and Class E hard hats?

**ANSWER:** Class C (Conductive) hard hats are **not intended to protect wearers from contact with electrical conductors**, where Class G and Class E hard hats are. Class G (General) hard hats are designed to reduce the danger of contact with low voltage conductors up to 2,200 volts. Class E (Electrical) are tested up to 20,000 volts and are designed to protect the worker from high voltage conductors.



CLASS E  
ELECTRICAL



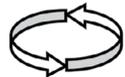
CLASS G  
GENERAL



CLASS C  
CONDUCTIVE

## 3. What constitutes a hard hat to be approved to be worn forward or backward?

**ANSWER:** If a hard hat is marked with a "reverse donning arrow," it means that the hard hat has been tested and passed ANSI/ISEA Z89.1 testing in the forward and reverse positions.



REVERSE  
DONNING  
ARROW

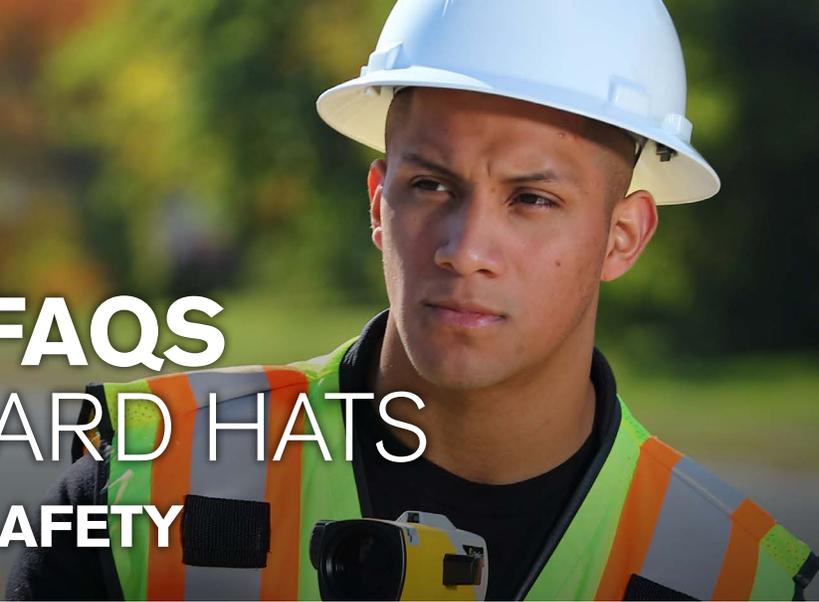
## 4. What are things to look for while conducting a daily hard hat inspection before donning to enter a job site?

**ANSWER:** The following evidence could indicate a reduction in overall protection:

- Cracks, dents, gouges, holes or tears in shell
- Faded or brittleness of the shell
- Frayed or cut suspension straps
- Cracks or tears in the suspension system
- Damaged wheel or slip ratchet mechanism

## 5. How often should a hard hat be replaced?

**ANSWER:** Most manufacturers recommend replacing the hard hat shell every 5 years and the suspension every 12 months. These are the maximum time frames based on the in-service date of the hard hat. Depending on the environment, application and use the shell or suspension may need to be replaced sooner if an inspection deems it necessary. If a hard hat has been impacted or penetrated, it should be removed from service immediately.



**6. What permanent labels or markings are required to be inside of a hard hat?**

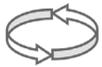
**ANSWER:**

- 1 Manufacturers Name
- 2 Date of Manufacture
- 3 Testing Legend
- 4 Type and Class Designation
- 5 Approximate Sizing range



**7. What ANSI optional hard hat features must be marked inside of the hard hat?**

**ANSWER:**



REVERSE  
DONNING

LT

LOWER  
TEMPERATURE

HT

HIGHER  
TEMPERATURE

HV

HIGH  
VISIBILITY

**8. Are self-adhesive stickers okay to apply to hard hats?**

**ANSWER:** Some self-adhesive stickers may be used if they are not metallic and the adhesives used are not damaging to the shell's composition. Stickers should be placed at least a half inch from the helmet's edge. Stickers should not be used to cover up any defect in the hard hat shell and it is important to carefully inspect the interior and exterior of the hard hats shell for defects if stickers are applied.

**9. What is the difference between ANSI Type II hard hats and EN 12492 certified safety helmets?**

**ANSWER:** ANSI Type II hard hats offer top, side, front and rear impact protection and have an integrated liner. A 4-point chin strap can be factory installed or added as an accessory. Safety helmets that meet the European EN 12492 mountaineering standard also meet ANSI Z89.1 Type I for top impact protection and meet EN 12492 for side, front and rear shock absorption and have a manufacturer-installed 4-point chin strap.

*\* Important to note that the EN 12492 standard requires venting, so when a manufacturer rates a Class E hard hat as EN 12492, they have excluded the venting requirement and have only tested for impact and retention.*



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