

## HARD HATS

### Requirements

- 29 CFR §1910.135 governs hard hat requirements for general industry workers.
- Requires workers to wear hard hats when there is a potential for head injury from impacts, falling or flying objects, or electrical shock.
- Must comply with ANSI Z89.1 Standard for Industrial Head Protection.
- ANSI Z89.1 defines two types of hard hats and establishes three classes of hard hats based on the level of electrical hazard protection provided.



### Types of Hard Hats

The three classes are based on the level of protection they provide from electrical hazards.

- Class G (General) hard hats are rated for 2,200 volts.
- Class E (Electrical) hard hats are rated for 20,000 volts.
- Class C (Conductive) hard hats do not offer electrical protection.



### Additional Types

- Two arrows curving to form a circle when the helmet can be worn forwards or backwards.
- LT – When the helmet is designed to provide protection at low temperatures 22 °F (-30 °C).
- HV – When the helmet meets all requirements for high visibility.

### Safety Guidelines

- Inspect before use. Hard hats must be replaced if they show signs of damage (dents, cracks, penetration, or fatigue due to rough treatment).
- While OSHA has no specific provision for an expiration date, manufacturers are allowed to determine if their equipment expires on a specific calendar date. A common practice is to replace the support strap yearly and to replace the hard hat every five years.
- Labels and paints may eliminate electrical resistance and can possibly conceal defects, cracks, penetration, and any damage that would be otherwise readily identifiable. Take care follow manufacturer requirements and not to adversely affect a hard hat's protective rating or make it more difficult to find potential defects and damage.