



Department of  
Health and Safety

# Head Protection

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Latest revised date: October 26, 2011	Page 1 of 4
Prepared by: Department of Health & Safety	S-010

## 1.0 Introduction

CSA approved hard hats shall be worn by workers in all work areas in which a potential hazard exists from falling, side impact, projectiles, impact from above, or from other harmful contacts and when workers are exposed to electrical hazards.

## 2.0 Definitions

**2.1 Class G (General Use):** a class of headwear that is intended to provide the user with headwear protection against impact and penetration. This headwear is nonconducting; it must also pass the dielectric-strength test specified for class G headwear. Although this class of protective equipment is manufactured from nonconducting materials, class G headwear is intended to provide some protection against electric shock following accidental contact between the headwear and live electrical apparatus.

**2.2 Class E (Electrical Trades)** a class of headwear that is intended to provide the user with Headwear protection against impact and penetration. This headwear is nonconducting; it must also pass the dielectric-strength test specified for class E headwear.

**2.3 Class C (Conducting):** a class of headwear that is intended to provide the user with headwear protection against impact and penetration only.

## 3.0 Hard Hat Areas

- 3.1 Supervisors, in consultation with the Director of the Department of Health & Safety, shall identify those workplaces, job sites or tasks where the use of CSA-approved protective headwear will be declared mandatory. Employee input is to be encouraged, including feedback for the joint OH&S committee members.
- 3.2 Such workplaces or job sites shall be posted “PROTECTIVE HEADWEAR MANDATORY” or by signs that convey this message. The local joint health and safety committee should review the identity of these workplaces.
- 3.3 CSA Standard Z94.1-92 Industrial Protective Headwear shall constitute the minimum standard for industrial protective headwear for Memorial University personnel. The Department of Health & Safety shall approve all exceptions to the standard.

Latest revised date: October 26, 2011	Page 2 of 4
Prepared by: Department of Health & Safety	S-010

#### **4.0 Criteria for Determining when a Hard Hat Should Be Used**

- 4.1 The Director of the Department of Health & Safety will assist supervisors to determine the type and classification of protective headwear appropriate for the occupational risks in the workplace or at the job site.
- 4.2 The use of CSA approved protective headwear is warranted when (See 5.1):
- There is any risk of injury to the head
  - There is risk of impact from flying objects (e.g., grinding operations, abrasive, etc.)
  - There is risk that the worker may strike overhanging or overhead objects
  - There is risk that the worker may be struck by any objects falling from above
  - There is risk of shock caused by contact with live electrical circuits; there is any other reasonably foreseeable risk of head injury.
  - Workers enter the work area of a construction site
- 4.3 Supervisors shall ensure CSA-approved protective headwear is provided and shall enforce the head protection.

#### **5.0 Mandatory Protective Headwear Required**

- 5.1 Workplaces where approved protective headwear is mandatory shall include but not be limited to:
- Designated construction sites;
  - Work areas where there is exposure to head injury from impact and/or flying or falling objects. (e.g., overhead crane or hoist operations, tree);
  - Locations where there is an exposure to electrical shock by head contact; and
  - Job sites where explosive-actuated tools are used.
- 5.2 Persons performing functions or entering work areas that may expose them to the hazards of head injury shall wear approved head protection as required by the workplace or activity supervisor.
- 5.3 Protective headwear shall not be a substitute for an overall safety system that must address the control of hazards at the source (e.g., to prevent an object from falling), or along the path of the worker (e.g., a protective barrier above the worker).

#### **6.0 Recommendations for the Care and Use of Industrial Protective Headwear**

Latest revised date: October 26, 2011	Page 3 of 4
Prepared by: Department of Health & Safety	S-010

- 6.1 For maximum head protection, the shell and suspension of headwear should be checked by the user for any visible damage before each use. If the shell or linings are found to have a crack, dent, or penetration, or if the suspension has torn or broken threads, the headwear should either be discarded or the particular part replaced with an identical part from the original manufacturer.
- 6.2 Any headwear that has received any severe blow should be destroyed as the blow may have substantially reduced the protection offered.
- 6.3 Caution should be exercised in the painting of any headwear shell as this may have a detrimental effect on the protection offered by the headwear. The manufacturer should be consulted with respect to the choice of paints for any particular safety hat or cap.
- 6.4 Headwear should be cleaned according to the manufacturer's instructions. Headwear should not be placed on the rear window shelf of an automobile as prolonged exposure to sunlight may adversely affect the protection offered by the unit. Also, in cases of emergency stops or accidents, the unit may become a hazardous missile.
- 6.5 Winter liners intended for use in Class G and Class E headwear should be flame resistant.
- 6.6 In order to obtain optimum levels of protection against electric shock, the headwear must be clean and dry. Headwear that is wet or contaminated with oil, grease, or other conducting chemicals, or that is fitted with inappropriate accessories, may suffer a dramatic reduction in its protective capabilities against electric shock.

**Legislative reference:** OH&S Regulation Part VII 74 and CAN/CSA – Z94.1 Industrial Protective Headwear.

Latest revised date: October 26, 2011	Page 4 of 4
Prepared by: Department of Health & Safety	S-010