

12 HEAD PROTECTION

Standards

Requirements for head protection are specified in the current edition of the construction regulation (O. Reg. 213/91).

Under this regulation, hard hats are mandatory for all construction workers on the job in Ontario. The hard hat must protect the wearer's head against impact and against small flying or falling objects, and must be able to withstand an electrical contact equal to 20,000 volts phase to ground.

At the present time, the Ministry of Labour (MOL) considers the following classes of hard hats to be in compliance with the regulation.

CSA

- Z94.1-05: Class E, Type 1
- Z94.1-05: Class E, Type 2
- Z94.1-1992: Class E

ANSI

- ANSI Z89.1-2009: Class E, Type I
- ANSI Z89.1-2009: Class E, Type II
- ANSI Z89.1-2003: Class E, Type I
- ANSI Z89.1-2003: Class E, Type II

The "Type" and "Class" of hard hat can be identified by the CSA or ANSI label. Some manufacturers also stamp the CSA or ANSI classification into the shell of the hard hat under the brim. Other markings that should be found here include:

- a) manufacturer's identity
- b) model
- c) class and type (e.g. Class E, Type 2)
- d) reverse orientation mark if applicable
- e) year and month of manufacture
- f) size or size range
- g) the following wording

This protective headwear is designed to absorb some of the energy of a blow through destruction of its component parts and, even though damage may not be apparent, any partial protective headwear subjected to severe impact should be replaced.

This protective headwear must not be painted or cleaned with solvents. Any decals applied to the protective headwear must be compatible with the surface material and known not to affect adversely the characteristics of the materials used in the protective headwear.

Any addition or structural modification may reduce the protective properties afforded by this protective headwear.

Styles

Class E hard hats come in three basic styles:

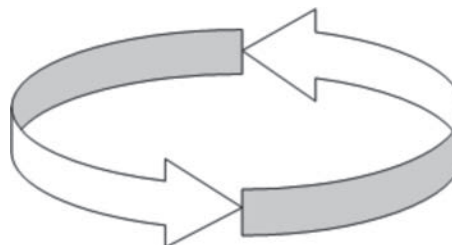
- 1) standard design with front brim, rain gutter, and attachment points for accessories such as hearing protection

- 2) standard design with front brim and attachment points for accessories, but without a rain gutter
- 3) full-brim design with attachment points for accessories and brim that extends completely around the hat for greater protection from the sun.

Reversible Hard Hats

You should normally wear your hard hat facing forward. A hard hat should be worn in reverse only if

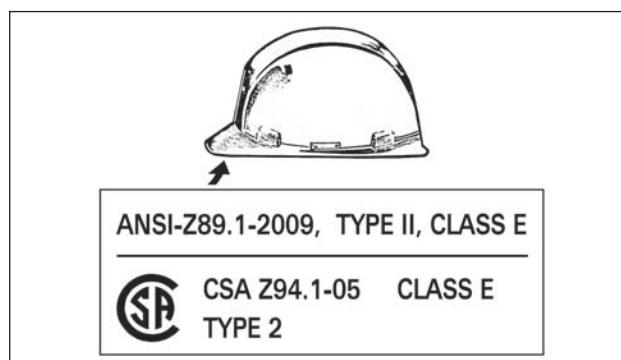
- 1) the hard hat has a reverse orientation mark as shown below



- 2) the job, task, or work environment necessitates wearing it backward (e.g. a face shield or welding helmet).

Use and care of hard hats

Always consult the manufacturer's instructions for use and care instructions of your hard hat. For instance, the instructions should indicate the service life of your hard hat. You may also need to know what components of the hard hat must be inspected before each use.



CSA label, stamped into the shell, indicating Class E, Type 2 hard hat

Figure 20