

# 10 STEPS TO HARD HAT SELECTION

Time to order new head protection?  
Consider these 10 key points first.\*



1

Conduct a head protection risk assessment at your work site. Work with your safety manager to accomplish this.

2

Outline additional risks: liquids that could cause slips, exposed sharp edges, potential dropped items, and electrical hazards.

3

Know the difference between ANSI/ISEA Z89.1 and EN12492 standards. Dive into the details here: [www.bullard.com/bullard-webinars](http://www.bullard.com/bullard-webinars).

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Understand the difference between Type I and Type II helmets, plus the three classes of ANSI-approved helmets:



#### TYPE I vs TYPE II:

Type I hard hats protect from blows that come from above.

Type II hard hats protect from lateral blows. This includes from the front, back, side, and top.

Class E	Class G	Class C
ELECTRICAL: safety helmets are designed to reduce exposure to high voltage conductors and offer dielectric protection up to 20,000 volts (phase to ground).	GENERAL: safety helmets are designed to reduce exposure to low voltage conductors, and offer dielectric protection up to 2,200 volts (phase to ground).	CONDUCTIVE: helmets are not intended to provide protection against contact with electrical conductors. Class C hard hats may include vented options.

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Ensure the helmet meets the Type and Class you need by checking the user information marked inside safety helmets:

- Manufacturer or identifying mark
- Type designation
- Manufacture date
- Class designation
- Standards certifications, like ANSI Z89.1-2014
- Approximate head size range

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## Evaluate helmet chin straps:

3-point and 4-point chin straps secure the helmet to the head.  
2-point chin straps stabilize the helmet, but do not secure it from falling off forward or backward.

7

## Evaluate helmet suspension systems:

Traditional suspension systems have 4 or 6 straps to balance and distribute the helmet weight.  
Some newer models also offer models with foam liners for additional comfort and security.

8

## Consider helmet accessories. They can add value to your workforce in terms of comfort, safety, and visibility:

- Visors can attach to helmets for face protection
- Reflective stripes add visibility and identification
- Hearing protection; can mix & match among many manufacturers
- Sunshades shelter the neck from sun
- Sunshields shield face, neck, and ears

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Test out features that focus on safety. Head protection with a clear brim like the AboveView model can increase the wearer's field of view. Choosing high-viz shell colors increases worker visibility. Be open to evaluating new safety features.

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Talk to the pros. Take advantage of helmet manufacturers and distributors who can accompany you on risk assessment walk-throughs and provide the appropriate protection.