

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.

4

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.

5

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

9

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.

10

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.