



Ultimate
Industrial

HEAD PROTECTION STANDARDS & REGULATIONS 2019

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Regulations Involving Head Protection.

The Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989 require suitable head protection, normally safety helmets, to be provided and worn when there is a risk of injury. If you are in control of a site, eg as a principal contractor, you need to think about risks of head injury. There may be risks from falling materials or of knocking into things such as low scaffolds. Unless there is no foreseeable risk of injury you must provide your employees with safety helmets and decide when, where, and how they should be worn. Safety helmets must be worn in designated 'hard hat' areas. Only turban wearing Sikhs are exempt from these requirements.

The Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989 allow you to make rules governing when and where safety helmets should be worn. These rules apply to everyone on site, and that includes visiting workpeople such as architects, delivery drivers and utility workers. These rules should be in writing and should be brought to the attention of all those who may be affected by them so that everyone knows when and where safety helmets are to be worn.

Safety Helmets - Relevant Standards.

The traditional safety helmet is generally covered by EN397:2012 which outlines the properties of the helmet and also how it is marked. This should include such details as the manufacturer, date of manufacture, size range and the shell material. A new helmet will also contain additional information on correct usage, adjustments etc. in the form of a User Information Sheet. More specialised helmets may also carry additional markings and a summary is included below:

Standard	Detail
EN 397:2012	Industrial safety helmets should be marked on the shell.
	Standard number, maker and model identification..
	Size or size range (cm) (on both shell and harness).
EN 397:1995	Year and quarter (or month) of manufacture.
	Informative label with specified wording.
	Shell material, eg ABS, PC, HDPE etc.

Optional Markings	Detail
	-20 C or -30 C - tested at very low temperature.
	+150 C - tested at high temperature
	440 V a.c. - tested for electrical insulation
	LD - tested for lateral deformation
	MM - resists molten metal splash
PLEASE NOTE: THE HELMET MUST HAVE ATTACHMENT POINTS FOR A CHINSTRAP.	



Industrial Bump Caps - Relevant Standards.

While sometimes incorrectly described as safety helmets this type of protection is very different in the levels of protection offered and conforms to a different standard, EN 812: 2012. Whilst popular, bump caps offer virtually NO Protection against falling objects and should not be used where there is any risk of being hit by falling items. They can be useful, however, if a worker is likely to bump their head on static objects and to promote company identity.

Standard	Detail
EN 812:2012	Industrial bump caps should be marked.
	Standard number, maker and model identification..
	Size or size range (cm) (on both shell and, if fitted, the harness).
EN 812:1998	Year and quarter (or month) of manufacture.
	Informative label with specified wording.

Optional Markings	Detail
	-20 C or -30 C - tested at very low temperature.
	F - Resistant to flame.
	440 V a.c. - tested for electrical insulation
PLEASE NOTE: OTHER STANDARDS MAY APPLY FOR MORE DETAILED APPLICATIONS	

Maintenance - The Basics.

While the relatively low costs involved in purchasing safety helmets have almost made them a disposable product many safety helmets are used for long periods with no basic checks or maintenance. This can result in potentially unsafe products being used on a daily basis with the obvious risk of injury in the event of an accident. Some useful information on storage and maintenance is outlined below. We would recommend a documented system of checks at regular intervals and users should carry out a basic visual check on a daily basis.

- Safety helmets must be maintained in good condition.
- Be stored in a safe place, eg on a peg or in a cupboard on site.
- Not be stored in direct sunlight or in excessively hot, humid conditions because long-term exposure can weaken the shell.
- Be checked regularly for signs of damage or deterioration; this includes the shell, harness and accessories.
- Have defective parts replaced (if the model allows this). Parts from one model cannot normally be interchanged with those from another.
- Have the sweatband cleaned regularly or replaced.
- Before the safety helmet is issued to another person, it should be inspected to ensure it is serviceable and thoroughly cleaned in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, eg using soap and water. The sweatband should always be cleaned or replaced.

Damage To The Shell.

Damage to the shell of a helmet can occur when: objects fall onto it, it strikes against a fixed object or it is dropped or thrown. If damage is visible or the helmet has been subject to a significant impact it should be replaced immediately

Certain chemicals can also weaken the plastic of the shell leading to rapid deterioration in shock absorption or penetration resistance. Chemicals which should be avoided include aggressive cleaning agents or solvent based adhesives and paints. Where names or other markings need to be applied using adhesives, advice should be sought from the helmet manufacturer.

Generally, helmets should be replaced at intervals recommended by the manufacturer. They will also need replacing when the harness is damaged or if it is likely that the shock absorption or penetration resistance has deteriorated. For example, when the shell has received a severe impact, or if deep scratches occur (ie; to a depth greater than 25% of the shell thickness) or if the shell has any visible cracks.

CONFORMITY: There have been recent occurrences of counterfeit helmets being sold in the UK which while appearing to be fully compliant with the relevant standards were found to be dangerous. Buy your helmet from a reputable supplier and ask them for a copy of their CE Certificate. If a supplier cannot supply this certificate it may be worth asking yourself why? UCI are always happy to provide CE Certificates on any of their products and answer any questions on suitability you may have.



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