

Types and Classes of Hard Hats

Protective helmets are described by impact type and electrical class. All protective helmets shall meet either Type I or Type II requirements. All helmets shall be further classified as meeting Class E, Class G, or Class C electrical requirements.

Impact Types

Type I

Type I helmets are intended to reduce the force of impact resulting from a blow only to the top of the head. This form of impact, for example, may result from a small tool or material falling from above.

Type II

Type II helmets are intended to reduce the force of impact resulting from a blow to the top or sides of the head. This form of impact, for example, may result from contact from falling material or contact with the sharp corner of a side beam.

Electrical Classification of Hard Hats

Class E (Electrical)

Class E helmets are intended to reduce the danger of contact with higher voltage conductors. Test samples are proof-tested at 20,000 volts.

Note:

This voltage is not intended as an indication of the voltage at which the helmet protects the wearer.

Class G (General)

Class G helmets are intended to reduce the danger of contact with lower voltage conductors. Test samples shall be proof-tested at 2200 volts.

Note:

This voltage is not intended as an indication of the voltage at which the helmet protects the wearer.

Class C (Conductive)

Class C helmets are not intended to provide protection against contact with electrical hazards. On the hand, Class C hard hats may include vents on shells that provide increased breathability.