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Head Protection

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Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

TOPIC: Head Protection

When Head Protection is Necessary

Head protection must be worn if any of the following apply:

- Danger of objects falling from above.
- Possibility of accidental head contact with electrical hazards.
- Chance of heads bumping against fixed objects (beams, etc.).

Hard Hats

Hard hats are the most common form of head protection. They are designed to resist penetration by objects, absorb shock of a blow, and be water resistant and slow burning.

- Class A - Provide impact, penetration resistance, and limited voltage protection up to 2,200 volts.
- Class B - Provide the highest level of protection against electrical hazards, with high-voltage shock and burn protection up to 20,000 volts. Also provide protection from impact and penetration hazards by flying or falling objects.
- Class C - Provide lightweight comfort and impact protection but offer no protection from electrical hazards.
- Bump Hats - Designed for use in areas with low head clearance and are recommended for areas where protection is needed from head bumps and lacerations.

Hard Hat Requirements

- Hard hats must have a hard outer shell and a shock-absorbing lining, incorporating a headband and straps that suspend the shell from 2½ to 3¼ centimeters (1 to 1¼ inches) away from the head.
- Each hat should have a label inside the shell that lists the manufacturer, the ANSI designation, and the class of the hat.
- A proper fit allows sufficient clearance between the shell and the suspension system for ventilation and distribution of an impact.
- Accessories must not compromise the hat's safety elements.
- Every day, inspect for holes, cracks, tears, or other damage.
- Never drill holes, paint, or apply labels to headgear.
- Always wear a hard hat with the bill worn forward.