

OSHA Head Protection Standard Updated

Nov 16, 2012 - OSHA has confirmed the effective date of its direct final rule that revises the Head Protection standards became effective on September 20, 2012, to recognize the 2009 edition of the American National Standard for Industrial (ANSI) Head Protection.

The major differences include:

- Testing requirements to enable manufacturers to add specific markings on the helmets for:
 - The option to be worn in the backwards position ("reverse wearing") in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions
 - Colder temperatures
 - High-visibility coloring
- Addition of Type I and Type II definitions, which evaluate helmets by the areas of the head to which the helmets afford protection, rather than by whether the helmets have a brim:
 - Type 1 - Helmets intended to reduce the force of impact resulting from a blow only to the top of the head.
 - Type 2 - Helmets intended to reduce the force of impact resulting from a blow to the top or sides of the head.
- Renaming of the electrical classes of hard hats are:
 - Class G (General) - Intended to reduce the danger of contact exposure to low voltage conductors. Test samples are proof-tested at 2200 volts* (phase to ground).
 - Class E (Electrical) - Intended to reduce the danger of contact with higher voltage conductors. Test samples are proof-tested at 20,000 volts* (phase to ground).
 - Class C (Conductive) - Are not intended to provide protection against contact with electrical hazards.

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

- Explanation of the limitations of protective helmets that meet the requirements of the standard in preventing injuries.

See the OSHA Final Ruling at the Federal Register:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGIS TER&p_id=23525