

# Health and Safety Standard

# HEAD PROTECTION

## 1 PURPOSE

This standard will aid SaskPower staff in determining the appropriate head protection required and the proper application of that head protection.

## 2 SCOPE

This standard outlines the requirements for industrial protective headwear used at SaskPower including the selection, provisioning, use, inspection, and care. This standard also describes the requirements for head protection used while operating or being a passenger of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), snowmobile or towed conveyance.

This standard does not discuss the manufacturer's design performance requirements of the head protection.

This standard outlines the minimum requirements that shall be met or exceeded by SaskPower workers and contractors. Failure to comply may result in injuries, damage to equipment and property, performance management or any combination thereof.

The use of the word "shall" within this standard denotes a mandatory action, whereas the use of the word "should" or "may" denotes a recommended action.

## 3 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this standard:

**Head covering** – is a garment that covers the head.

**Type 1 Industrial protective headwear** – is headwear that provides impact and penetration protection for the crown only.

- **Class C** - Has no electric rating.
- **Class G** - Non-conducting and is required to pass the dielectric strength test for Class G headwear of 2200 V electrical rating.
- **Class E** - Non-conducting and required to pass the dielectric strength test for Class E headwear of 20,000 V electrical rating.

**Type 2 Industrial protective headwear** - is headwear that provides impact and penetration protection for the crown and laterally.

- **Class C** - Has no electric rating.
- **Class G** - Non-conducting and is required to pass the dielectric strength test for Class G headwear of 2200 V electrical rating.
- **Class E** - Non-conducting and required to pass the dielectric strength test for Class E headwear of 20,000 V electrical rating.

---

## 4 REQUIREMENTS

### 4.1 SELECTION

To ensure the greatest level of protection provided by industrial head protection, the appropriate equipment shall be selected.

- The type and class of hard hat shall meet the requirements of hazard identification and risk assessment.
- Industrial protective headwear shall meet the requirements of CSA Z94.1. For hard hats and safety helmets to be in compliance with CSA Z94.1 they shall be either Type 1 or 2 and Class C, G or E.
- Protective helmets employed for use while operating ATVs and Snowmobiles shall comply with at least one of the applicable standards of BSI, CSA, DOT, SNELL, ECE or ANSI for snowmobile or motorcycle use and bear an approved agency sticker.

### 4.2 PROVISIONING

Head protection shall be supplied through SaskPower Central Stores or through the Division's purchasing process.

### 4.3 USE

Proper use of head protection will ensure the highest level of protection from this personal protective equipment. The following highlights effective use of head protection:

- Head protection shall be worn where a hazard/aspect identification and risk assessment identify the requirement.
- Head protection shall be used as per the manufacturer specifications and instructions.

- Workers required to wear high visibility safety apparel as task-specific personal protective equipment shall also wear industrial protective headwear (i.e., hard hat) that is of a high visibility colour.
- Hard hats or safety helmets shall consist of both a shell and suspension. Nothing shall be carried between the suspension and the shell.
- Head protection shall not be modified or distorted from its original form.
- Other personal protective equipment shall be compatible with and not compromise the protection provided by the head protection.
- Baseball caps or other similar hats shall not be worn underneath protective headwear. Any other head coverings worn under hard hats or safety helmets shall not impede the proper fit and function of the protective headwear and should not obstruct the worker's field of vision including peripheral vision. For additional guidance refer to Job Aid – Proper Fit for Head Protection.
- Head coverings shall be arc-rated and not include metal or other electrically conductive components where a hazard/aspect and risk assessment identify electrical hazards.
- Chin straps, when used, shall serve as a secondary control to provide an additional level of retention. Chin straps should be snug and secure yet comfortable.
- Any decals or laminates applied to the protective headwear shall be compatible with the surface material and known not to affect adversely the characteristics of the materials used in the protective headwear. Non-metallic stickers or reflective tape placed at least 13 mm (1/2 in) above the edge of the brim will not affect the dielectric characteristics of headwear. The application of decals, laminates, stickers, or tape shall not compromise the ability of the user to inspect the headwear shell for damage.

Operators and passengers of ATVs, snowmobiles and towed conveyances shall use approved protective helmets.

- If the ATV is equipped with roll-over protective structures, enclosed by a cab that is an integral part of the vehicle and the worker is provided and uses a seat-belt secured to the vehicle, then they are not required to wear protective helmets while operating the ATV or as a passenger.

#### 4.4 INSPECTION

Head protection shall be inspected for any damage or other deficiencies before use. If any are found, the shell and/or suspension shall be replaced immediately unless otherwise stated.

The inspection should include the following:

- Inspect the hard hat shell for cracks, dents, cuts, or gouges.
- Inspect the hard hat shell for exposure damage from heat, sunlight, or chemicals.
- Inspect suspension for signs of wear, cut or twisted straps and cracks or tears in the plastic clips.
- Inspect suspension for buildup of hair oils, perspiration, dirt, insecticides, hair products that can cause deterioration and weakening. Replace suspension as required.

#### 4.5 CARE

Appropriate care of head protection will ensure it will provide protection when required. The following highlights the care of head protection:

- Clean using a mild detergent and rinse clean in hot water.
- Ensure components (i.e., shell and suspension) from one manufacturer's head protection are not combined with components from another manufacturer.
- Maintain liners in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
- Avoid storing head protection in direct sunlight.
- Replace head protection and its components as per manufacturer's recommendations which includes time based and inspection criteria.

- Replace shell at intervals defined in the manufacturer's instructions.

Note: Some manufacturers base the time on lifetime (X yrs. from date of manufacturing); others use service life (X yrs. from date placed into use).

- The date protective headwear entered service should be written on a non-metallic decal placed inside the hard hat shell.
- Replace suspension, if removable, at least annually.
- Replace head protection and its components when damage could affect its ability to provide protection. If in doubt, replace.
- Head protection and associated attachments shall be deemed compatible by the head protection manufacturer.

---

## 5 IMPLEMENTATION

The requirements of this version of the standard are to be met within two months of the approval date at which time the previous version will be superseded.

## 6 RESOURCES

### 6.1 INTERNAL RESOURCES

<b>Related Policies:</b>	Hazard/Aspect and Risk Assessment (HARA) Policy
<b>Related Standards:</b>	Hazard/Aspect and Risk Assessment (HARA) Standard High Visibility Standard
<b>Additional Information:</b>	Job Aid – Proper Fit for Head Protection (on SafetyNet) Sikh religion and wearing hard hats on work sites as part of their PPE (stored on Diversity and Inclusion SharePoint site)

### 6.2 EXTERNAL RESOURCES

<b>Related Legislation:</b>	<i>Saskatchewan Employment Act, 2014</i> <i>The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2020</i> <i>Saskatchewan Snowmobile Act 2021</i> <i>All Terrain Vehicles Act 2021</i>
<b>Related Standards</b>	CSA Z94.1 Industrial Protective Headwear – Performance, Selection, Care and Use
<b>Additional Information:</b>	Manufacturer Instructions

**Ownership**

<b>Division:</b>	Human Resources and Safety
<b>Department:</b>	Safety
<b>Review Frequency:</b>	3 years
<b>Approved by:</b>	Health & Safety Council
<b>Approval Date:</b>	May 17, 2023

**Document History**

Revised by	Revision Purpose/Comments	Date
B. Kessler	Continuous Improvement	April 13, 2023
R. Mack	Scheduled Review Cycle	September 15, 2022
Health and Safety Department	Scheduled Review Cycle	June 13, 2019
Health and Safety Department	Scheduled Review Cycle	April 19, 2016