

HARD HAT INSPECTION

This inspection check list prepared by Dean W. Ward, John F. Beasley Construction Co., was reprinted from a CONSTRUCTION SAFETY RELEASE published by the National Safety Council, 425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Use of head protection in the construction industry has become standard practice. Hard hats (safety hats) and caps will continue to serve men well as long as they are designed to do the intended job, and worn, and are properly maintained.

The design is established by accepted standards. We can rely on the manufacturers to meet them. Wearing has become customary because the hazard from falling objects is apparent.

PROPER MAINTENANCE IS NOW THE PRIMARY PROBLEM

The shell shape and construction material will meet the requirements for impact resistance, penetration, heat, and cold as long as the hat is not damaged or altered in any way.

1. The cradle or hat suspension system that keeps the shell away from the skull is as important as the shell itself. The shell and hat suspension act as a unit to absorb the force of a blow. Their relationship must not be changed. When a 7/8 x 3 inch bolt fell 220 feet from the Del Rio (Texas) Bridge onto a man's hard hat, the wearer was knocked down and momentarily stunned. But he was able to return to work after a doctor stitched a scalp laceration closed. With even a fraction of an inch less than the required clearance in the hat suspension, the man could have been killed.

2. Replace any hard hat if the shell is kinked, split, dented, or drilled (hats are often drilled full of holes for air circulation).

3. Check the 1 1/4 inch suspension clearance. Some hats have adjustable suspensions and may be set at less than this allowable minimum.

4. Check the attachment of the suspension to the shell. Rivets or clips may be cracked or worn.

5. Check suspensions for deterioration due to perspiration or age. Replace them if there is any doubt as to their condition.

By all means, discuss hard hat standards at your next safety meeting. Check all hats and suspensions to make sure they really are safe.