

New OSHA Safety & Health Information Bulletin

Head Protection: Safety Helmets in the Workplace

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a new Safety and Health Information Bulletin, [SHIB 11-22-23](#), titled, “*Head Protection: Safety Helmets in the Workplace.*” The Bulletin is not a regulation, but advisory in nature. It describes the differences between traditional hard hats and safety helmets. In the Bulletin, OSHA recommends employers consider safety helmets whenever head protection is required so employees are afforded the best protection.

Determining the need for head protection takes place by conducting a job/task hazard assessment. Some job sites potentially benefitting the most from safety helmet use, include, but are not limited to:

- Construction sites
- Working from heights
- Electrical work
- High-temperature environments
- Specialized work environments where integrated face shields, hearing protection or communication devices are needed.



Image of Safety Helmets, courtesy of OSHA

You can find SHIB 11-22-23 on the OSHA SHIB webpage at <https://www.osha.gov/shib#tab4>, or download the PDF of the file: https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/safety_helmet_shib.pdf.

For additional information on the SMCX’s services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: <https://www.smscx.org/>.