

## Type 2 Hard Hats with Chin Strap – Frequently Asked Questions

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### 1. Why are we replacing current hard hats with Type 2 hard hats with a chin strap?

- Type 2 hard hats with a chin strap provide enhanced protection for all workers.
- While Type 1 hard hats primarily protect against impacts to the top of the head and may fall off during an incident, Type 2 hard hats protect against impacts to both the top and sides of the head thanks to their impact-absorbing liner. When properly fastened and adjusted, the chin strap helps ensure the hard hat stays in place in the event of a fall.
- To ensure adequate protection, the chin strap must be fastened at all times when the hard hat is worn and properly adjusted to keep the hard hat secure.

### 2. What evidence shows that Type 2 hard hats with a chin strap make a real difference in safety on worksites? Are there concrete examples?

- A study conducted by Virginia Tech confirms that Type 2 hard hats provide better protection against severe injuries, with an average reduction in risk of 34% for fall-related concussions and 65% for skull fractures.

### 3. Are trade partners required to provide their own Type 2 hard hats with a chin strap?

- Yes. Employers are responsible for providing their workers with safe, compliant equipment.
- We also share a collective responsibility to continuously improve safety standards and provide the safest equipment possible to our teams.

### 4. How can you identify a compliant hard hat and choose the right model?

- Hard hat selection must comply with applicable regulations. Some provinces require CSA-approved hard hats, while others accept both CSA and ANSI certifications.
  - CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94.1
  - ANSI Standard ANSI/ISEA Z89.1
- Currently, Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland require CSA-certified hard hats (Canadian Standards Association), while other provinces accept hard hats certified to either ANSI (American National Standards Institute) or CSA standards.
- Hard hats are available in different classes (E, G, C), which provide varying levels of dielectric protection.
  - **We recommend a Type 2, Class E hard hat**, as it offers versatile protection, including dielectric protection.

- When in doubt, trade partners should consult their personal protective equipment (PPE) supplier to determine the most appropriate model based on the type of work and the province in which it is performed.
- Compliant hard hats include an integrated four-point chin strap system.



- Certification markings are typically located inside the hard hat, as shown in the image:



- The selected hard hat must be appropriate for the risks encountered and comply with local regulatory requirements (CSA and/or ANSI).

## **5. Must a Type 2 hard hats be equipped with a chin strap or a chin guard?**

- Type 2 hard hats must be equipped with a chin strap.
- A chin strap is a strap that fastens under the chin and keeps the hard hat securely in place in the event of a fall or impact, which is essential to ensure proper protection.
- A chin guard, on the other hand, is a comfort pad positioned under the chin; it does not secure the hard hat and does not meet compliance requirements.

## **6. Can a third-party chin strap be used?**

- Integrated chin straps are acceptable as long as they are specifically designed and manufactured for use with a safety hard hat.
- “Homemade” or non-manufacturer-approved chin straps are not permitted.

**7. Must the chin strap be worn at all times?**

- Yes. The chin strap is an integral part of the protection system and must always be fastened and properly adjusted to provide maximum protection.

**8. When will Type 2 hard hats with a chin strap become mandatory on all our worksites?**

- These hard hats will be mandatory on all our worksites [as of July 1, 2026](#).

**9. Does this requirement also apply on worksites where Pomerleau is not the prime contractor?**

- Yes. Even when Pomerleau is not the prime contractor, Pomerleau workers and trade partners working for Pomerleau must comply with our Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) requirements, including the use of Type 2 hard hats with a chin strap, regardless of the prime contractor's requirements.

**10. Who does this requirement apply to?**

- The use of a Type 2 hard hat with a chin strap is mandatory for anyone on our worksites, regardless of their role (Pomerleau employees, trade partner employees, visitors, etc.).

**11. Does this requirement also apply to delivery drivers and carriers?**

- Yes. As is always the case on our worksites, delivery drivers and carriers must comply with our PPE requirements.

**12. Does this requirement apply only to new worksites?**

- No. The directive applies to all worksites, both current and future.

**13. What is the cost of a Type 2 hard hat with a chin strap?**

- Several options are available at varying price points (between \$45 and \$175) from different suppliers.
- At the entry level, a Type 2 hard hat typically costs about \$25 more than a Type 1 hard hat.