



The Best Place on Earth

November 17, 2010

Chief Inspector's Directive

Industrial Protective Headgear

Objective:

Clarification of: Section 1.8.3 of the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC

The code states:

A protective hat complying with the relevant requirements of CSA Standard Z94.1-M1977 "Industrial Protective Headgear," and suitable for the type of work or activity being performed, shall be worn by persons where there is a risk of head injury or where required by the manager or an inspector. Where conditions may cause the hat to be accidentally dislodged

- 1) *A device shall be incorporated into the hat and worn in order to prevent the hat being dislodged during a fall and*
- 2) *In the case of underground work, a chin strap and hearing protection muffs attached to the hat be worn.*

Background:

It has come to my attention that the requirements of the Health, Safety and Reclamation code for Mines in British Columbia (Code) section 1.8.3 that requires the use of CSA Standard Z94.1-M1977 Industrial Protective Headgear, are restrictive and we should therefore provide greater flexibility in the choice of protective equipment.

A review of other legislation in BC suggests that we should allow the same standards as Worksafe BC to provide uniformity across other industries within the province. Part 1.8.3 shall be varied to the following:

1. Safety headgear must meet the requirements of
 - CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94.1.92, Industrial Protective Headwear;
 - ANSI Standard Z89.1-1986, American National Standard for Personnel Protection – Protective Headwear for Industrial Workers Requirements, or;

- Japanese Industrial Standard JIS T8131-1990, Industrial Safety Helmets, for Class AB or ABE headgear.
2. If a worker may be exposed to an electrical hazard, the safety headgear must have an appropriate non-conductive rating.
 3. Chin straps or other effective means of retention must be used on safety headgear when workers are climbing or working from a height exceeding 3 m (10ft), or are exposed to high winds or other conditions that may cause loss of the headgear.
 4. Damaged headgear or headgear with missing, mismatched, or modified components must be removed from service.

At the next rewrite of the code I propose to include the content of this directive.



Al Hoffman, P.Eng
Chief Inspector of Mines