

Head Protection Questions and Answers

What is the in use life span of an industrial safety helmet?

There is a lot of confusion as to what is considered to be an acceptable working life of a safety helmet. Unfortunately there can be no hard and fast rules concerning this. There is no test in the European Standard to cover this, and it would be difficult, if not impossible to devise such a test.

In use, head protection is generally treated with a lack of care, often being thrown or dropped, used as a receptacle for all manner of items, or carried on the rear window shelf of a vehicle. None of these actions are conducive to continued performance.

Users should regularly inspect both the helmet shell and its harness for signs of wear and tear.

Deep abrasions or scuff marks to the helmet shell will require it to be replaced, likewise cracks or damage to the harness will require that item to be replaced. Based on this treatment it is unlikely that a helmet will be offering adequate protection five years after manufacture.

What testing do your helmets undergo?

JSP has its own testing laboratory which has been approved by British Standards for the batch release testing of our products. Every batch of helmets that you receive will have been tested and inspected before you receive it.

Date stamp? Is that like a best before date?

No, we are required by the European Standard to mark each helmet with the quarter or month and year of manufacture.

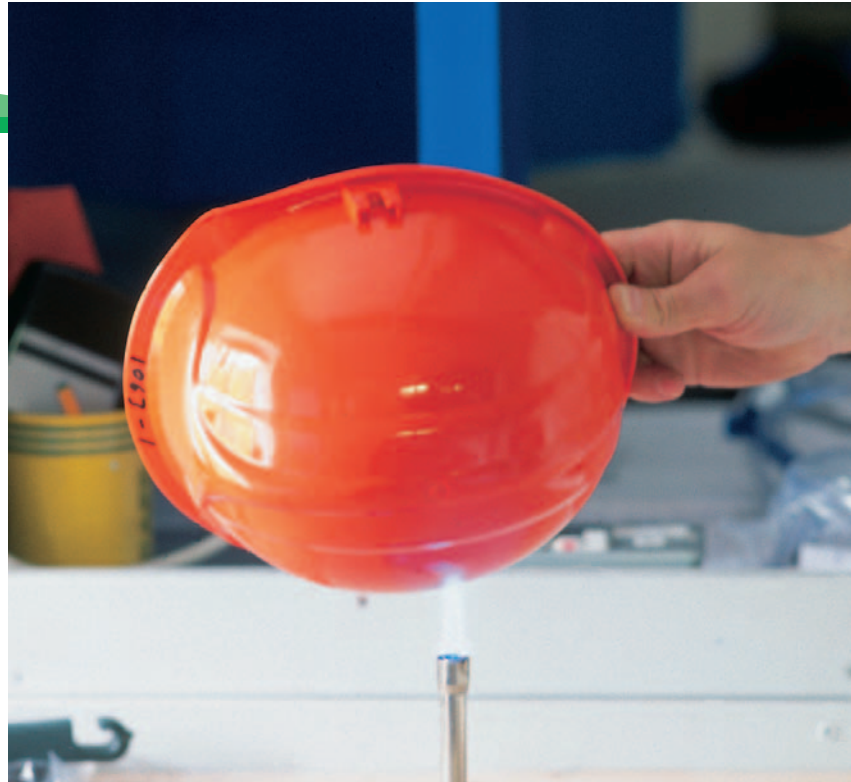
This should not be used as a basis for determining the life of an industrial safety helmet.

Does the harness do anything except keep the helmet on the head?

Yes! The harness is an integral part of all Invincible™ helmets and works by stretching which absorbs some of the energy of the impact. The harness also spreads the force of an impact evenly over the wearers head minimising the risk of harm to the user.

How does a helmet protect me from falling objects?

The helmet works rather like the crumple zone on a car. The force of the impact will be largely absorbed by the helmet shell, with the harness also absorbing a large amount of the shock by stretching. The shell or harness may well crack, don't worry they're supposed to.



Flammability Test

Any helmet that has suffered an impact should be replaced whether damage is visible or not. Since the internal structure of the helmet may be damaged.

I've been thinking about carrying out some modifications to my helmet's shell such as drilling some ventilation holes and rigging up some kind of lamp on the front. Is this likely to affect my helmet's effectiveness?

Yes, it would definitely affect the performance. Drilling holes in your helmet would be akin to cutting large holes in a parachute and wondering why the ground is approaching quickly.

If you feel that extra ventilation is needed then there is the FF European helmet that does include ventilation holes at the side and the Mark VI or VII with ventilation holes at the top of the helmet.

Can I use the chin strap off helmets supplied by a different company?

No, to conform with the European Standard BS EN 397 it became necessary to alter the design of our chin straps slightly.

Under this standard it became necessary for the chin strap to

break when a specific load is applied.

An Invincible™ chin strap may break in a different manner to another company's and so you should only use an Invincible™ chin strap on an Invincible™ helmet.

What hearing protection and be fitted to the helmets?

A choice of 4 types of helmet mounted ear defenders is available



Impact Test



Penetration Test

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Can I Apply Labels?

Many of our customers wish to put their own design of self-adhesive labels on our range of industrial Safety Helmets.

The instructions supplied with each and every helmet states:

"Do not apply paint, solvents or self-adhesive labels except in accordance with instructions from the helmet manufacturer"

Suitability of a self-adhesive label can only be determined by carrying out tests over the expected life of a helmet and could therefore take several years.

We can therefore not guarantee the performance of our products when material other than that used and tested by JSP Ltd is used to modify a helmet's appearance.

If I can't use a sticker, can I paint my helmet?

No again, we know that the chemicals in the paint we use for our screen and tamper printing do not affect the helmet. We can't say that for all the paints on the market.

I have been told by a member of my staff that its OK to wear Top Caps in lieu of safety helmets, and they would prefer to wear them. Is this true?

No they are made to two different standards and serve two different purposes. The Top Cap is a bump cap that provides safety head protection to EN812:1997 standard. It is not designed to protect the wearer from falling masses. The industrial safety helmet provides head protection to EN397:1995 and is designed to protect the wearer from falling masses.

Helmet markings, I've just bought mine and the safety officer says its out of date?

There is no use by date marked on a helmet. Date markings in the helmet are for:

- Number of European Standard e.g: (EN397:1995)

Size Range

All JSP Head Protection is designed and produced to provide adequate protection for as wide a cross section of the adult populations head sizes as possible.

To this end JSP Ltd use quantitative scientific data gained from independent research.

Helmet	Size in mm	Head Size in Inches
Mark VI and VII	530 - 640mm	6 1/2 - 7 7/8
Mark IV and V	530 - 630mm	6 1/2 - 7 7/8
Mark I, II and III	530 - 620mm	6 1/2 - 7 3/4
FF European	530 - 620mm	6 1/2 - 7 3/4
Martcare Headmaster	530 - 610mm	6 1/2 - 7 5/8
Bump Cap (Scalp Protector)	530 - 630mm	6 1/2 - 7 7/8
Top Cap - Small (Scalp Protector)	520 - 580mm	6 1/2 - 7 1/4
Top Cap - Large (Scalp Protector)	560 - 620mm	6 7/8 - 7 3/4

- Year and quarter of manufacture
- Year of American ANSI Standard Z89.1-2003 (or 1997)

What is the shelf life of an industrial safety helmet?

If the helmets are stored in the boxes in which they were supplied and do not experience environmental extremes the shelf life of a helmet is not limited.

We would not expect a helmet to be in use more than five years after the date of manufacture.

Storage conditions should be between 5°C and 50°C and relative humidity less than 75%.

Do you produce a retractable eyeshield for your helmets?

Yes, it's called the Retractable and can be fitted to our Mark I, Mark II or Mark III helmets. The Sureslide® Retractable visor is fitted to the Mark VI or Mark VII helmets.

It is made of polycarbonate and can be obtained in clear or anti glare. It fits directly onto the helmet and retracts inside the shell when not in use. The Retractable meets the requirements of EN166.1.F (Low energy impact).

Can I replace just the harness of my helmet as it has split and the shell is unmarked?

Yes the harness can be replaced. As long as the harness has not split because of an impact and is of the same type as originally fitted.

I have bought one of your helmets, what accessories can I fit to it?

The following accessories can be fitted to JSP helmets

The new Mark VI/VII helmets take the Surefit™ accessory range of ear defenders and visors. Our Mark III, Mark II, FF European helmets are

fitted with attachment slots for the JSP Cliptite™ range which includes helmet mounted faceshields and helmet mounted ear defenders.

There is also a range of protective capes which can protect the neck from liquid splash to molten metal splash. It is also possible to fit a JSP chin strap to all JSP helmets.

There is a Universal visor carrier which does not require to be attached to helmet slots, which therefore fits Martcare and Mark I helmets, as well as others in the range.

