



### Check hardhat expiry date

Safety helmets, often known as hardhats, have a "use by" and "working life" date. Many nations now follow the common practice of a 3-year replacement date. When a hardhat is made, the year and month of manufacture are stamped for easy reading into the underside of the peak.

The year is overlaid over the stamp's arrow, which points to the month. For instance, the hardhat was made in September 2004 if the arrow points to 9 and the number is 04 as seen below.

**If the hardhat has been used regularly it should be replaced after 3 years from the Date of Issue.**

The hardhat's interior at the back of the shell should have an additional sticker with the date of issue on it. The date of production and the date of issue are not always the same. The harness and headband have a lifespan of two years and ought to be changed sooner if necessary.

Beware if a "adhesive" monogram, sticker, or label is used instead of a painted (embossed) logo applied to the hardhat during production. Some of the glues used for the sticky label may react with the hardhat shell, compromising the hat's hardness.

The date of production should be used as the standard whenever there is doubt because it is indelibly stamped on the inside of the hardhat, leaving little room for error. The quality of a hardhat will have decreased if it was kept in direct sunlight or on a shelf that was heated (such as inside a closed automobile). When worn after being stored in direct sunlight for a long time, hardhats have been known to break.

