



# OH&S Bulletin

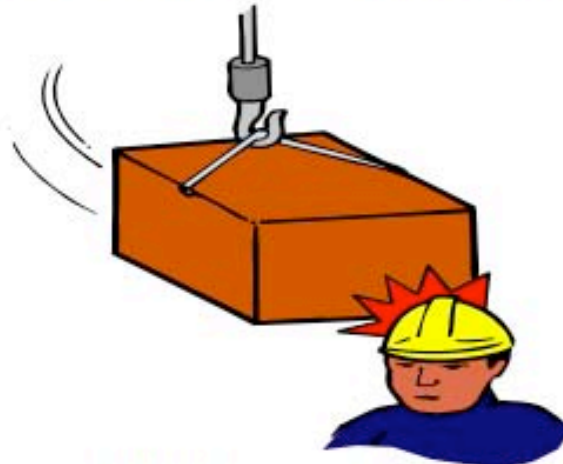
## Hard Hat Exemptions for those Without Heads

A serious head injury can be the worst of the lot for the friends and families of the injured person because that person is not always the same person they were before they were hurt. That is of course if it doesn't kill you. And even those that do get well may make take years to make a full recovery.

Construction unions fought for the use and provision of hard hats many years ago, when workers were wearing their own bowler hats stuffed with newspaper, because that was the best they could do.

Head injuries represented nearly 20% of all building industry workers compensation claims in the years between 1995 and 1997. The frustrating thing is that most of them are so avoidable. A hard hat sitting in the back of the car won't do you any good if anything

comes off the top deck or you fall. Not only that, but if you are hurt, you'll have trouble getting compo because you weren't wearing your safety gear.



We've heard all the excuses under the sun but there aren't any that stick. If you're bending a lot, get a chin strap. If you bump your head when you wear it, get used to it! If you wore it often enough in the first place you already would be.

If it were up to the bosses we'd still be walking the steel and riding the hook.

We've fought for safer working conditions and we're still fighting! There's no excuse for compromising safety and giving away what others have fought for.

So get it into your head to get it onto your head. It's 100% compliance and there's no excuses.

Authorised by Pat Preston, Manager, Environmental & Occupational Health & Safety Unit