

The Delivery Hub health, safety and environment
Raising the bar 31
Safety helmet colours

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Objective

To achieve a common safety helmet colour standard to realise the following benefits;

- A single standard that can be adopted by all Highways England construction and maintenance contractors. At present contractors specify different requirements on helmets as there is no industry agreed standard.
- More clearly identifying peoples roles through helmet colour which indicates the level of responsibility on site. It fosters pride in the wearing of a specific hat colour as a badge of responsibility.
- Reduced costs as companies will no longer have to buy different coloured helmets for different jobs.

Background

There are currently a number of different approaches to safety helmet colours:

- Research has found that while most sites / contractors have a policy on helmet colours, sites / contractors were often implementing different approaches
- Individual contractors have introduced job identified safety helmet colours in their PPE Standard.
- Network Rail has specific requirements regarding safety helmet colours on or near the line side (white for general use or blue for inexperienced people / visitors).
- This inconsistent approach is confusing and potentially dangerous.
- On smaller sites a colour standard may be impractical, in these cases we advise using a default colour of white as is general current practice.

Build UK which represents many of our construction contractors and trade bodies has produced an industry standard to address these issues. A hub collaborative working group representing Major Project and Operations contractors has agreed that we should align our approach to this standard.

Minimum requirements

Safety helmet colours

Highways England construction and maintenance sites that adopt a helmet colour code for specific roles are to use the following colours from 1 January 2017. This guide aligns to BuildUK and Network Rail requirements.



Black

Site Supervisors



Orange

Slinger / Signaller



Blue

Inexperienced Person / Visitor
Issue will be determined following an assessment of an individual's experience at site induction.
Applies to all including suppliers, clients and others.



White

General Use (Including sites where colour coding impractical), Manager, Client, Competent Operative

- Reflective markings and role specific helmet decals are permitted;



First Aid



Fire Marshall

- Coloured high visibility vests are permitted to identify other roles e.g. vehicle marshal
- Helmets must meet BS EN 397
- Network Rails PPE standard allows only white and blue helmets.

Other information

- BUILD UK Helmet colour standard; https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/554035/B31_Safety_Helmet_Colours_Sept_2016.pdf

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