

By: Steve Chase-Circuit Rider

May 2013

## **HIGH-VISIBILITY SAFETY APPAREL**

High-visibility safety apparel means personal protective safety clothing that is intended to provide conspicuity during both daytime and nighttime usage.

High visibility clothing is designed to protect you from traffic and equipment working in the area and other hazards. Any personnel working on the roadway or the ditches within the highway right of way are required to wear high visibility clothing which meets the current ANSI standards for performance class 2 during daytime operations.

Visibility garments are categorized into four different performance classes, Class 1, 2, 3, and E. Each performance class has a required minimum amount of background and reflective material. Each class also has guidelines on the placement of materials to enhance visibility of workers.

### **CLASS 1**

Rule of thumb- wear class 1 when you are working in the daytime and are not working with or near roadway traffic. Typical styles are vests and t-shirts.

#### Examples

Parking lot attendants  
Workers in warehouses with equipment traffic  
Shopping cart attendants

### **CLASS 2**

Rule of thumb- wear class 2 during daytime when you are working with or near roadway traffic.

- Most commonly used class
- Minimum coverage for people working in or near roadway traffic
- Typical styles such as vests, t-shirts, and jackets

#### Examples

Flaggers during the daytime  
Inspectors  
Survey crews

### **CLASS 3**

Rule of thumb-wear class 3 when working with or near roadway traffic, at night or in bad weather.

- Requires the greatest amount of background and reflective coverage
- Class 2 top with class E bottoms: pants, coveralls, and rainwear

### Examples

Roadway construction personnel  
Flaggers during nighttime operations

### **CLASS E**

Rule of thumb- use class E garments to boost coverage of class 3 status when wearing a class 2 top.

- For use in most severe environments, work zones in and around roadway traffic, at night and in inclement weather.
- Styles such as pants or shorts, overalls and rain suits

### **LABEL REQUIREMENTS**

- ANSI standard – ANSI/ISEA 107-2010
- Class of garment
- Maximum # of cycles through washing machine

### **BACKGROUND MATERIAL**

It must be in fluorescent colors because of their “glow” quality. Colors may be fluorescent orange-red, fluorescent yellow-green, or fluorescent red. Construction companies tend to use yellow-green to signify human presence.

Source Contents: American National Standard Institute(ANSI) (Users of Safety Talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations).

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national origin, public assistance status, sex, sexual orientation, status as a U.S. veteran, race or religion. Direct inquiries to the Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach, 205 Old Main, (701)231-7708