

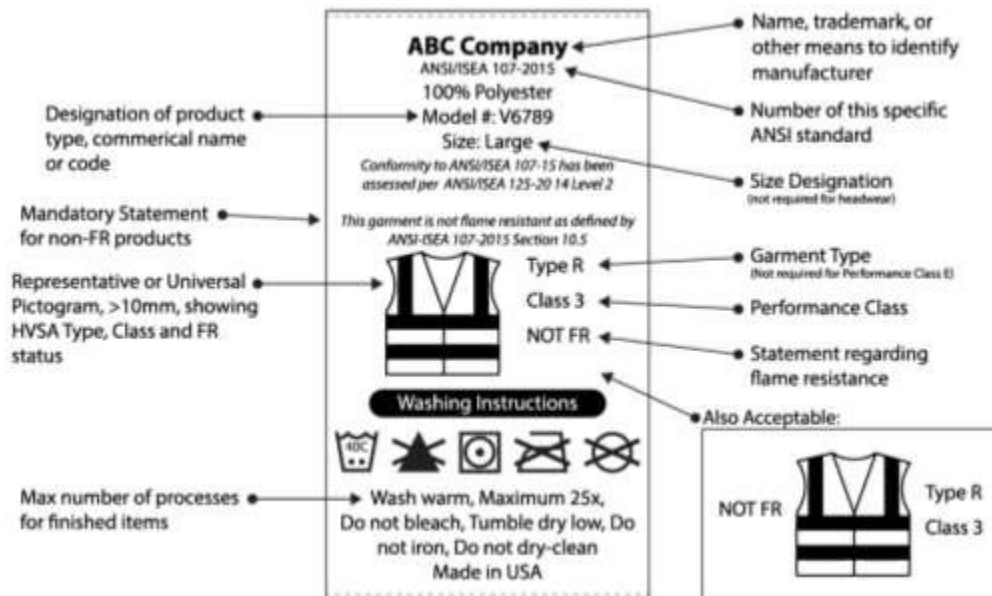
HIGH-VISIBILITY SAFETY APPAREL - PPE

The need to be seen is critical for worker safety. Low visibility is a serious hazard for all workers who perform work tasks near moving traffic. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Worker Visibility Final Rule; *“All workers within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway who are exposed either to traffic (vehicles using the highway for purposes of travel) or to construction equipment within the work area shall wear high-visibility safety apparel.”*

High-Visibility Safety Apparel (HVSA) is defined as any garment meeting the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 107-2015 Class 2 or 3 standard. The previous HVSA minimum standard was ANSI 107-2004. Check with your local safety officer for the updated version of this standard, however; all HVSA should be updated to the newest standard.

The **2021 Traffic Control Requirements for NDDOT Operations on Highways and Streets** states: SAFETY APPAREL: *All workers must wear florescent lime-yellow, colored safety apparel meeting, Performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the ANSI/ESEA 107-2015 Standard. Performance Class 2 safety apparel is acceptable if used from the existing stock. Only Performance Class 3 safety apparel shall be purchased.*

In order to verify your HVSA meets the standard, check the label. The label must clearly show the Type and Performance Class, as well as other information about the garment. See below for sample label.



SAFETY TALK



NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY • UPPER GREAT PLAINS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE • NORTH DAKOTA LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The updated 2015 edition combined ANSI/ISEA 107 with ANSI/ISEA 207 (high-visibility vests) for simplification; users can now easily select garments for a particular application. Garment Types based on work environment have been added: **Type O (Off-road), Type R (Roadway), and Type P (Public Safety)**. Type O corresponds with Performance Class 1 and Types R and P can be either Performance Class 2 or Performance Class 3. To accommodate for smaller-size workers, the minimum area of material for a Type R (roadway and temporary traffic control zones) Class 2 or 3 was reduced for the smallest size offered.

There are three colors for background and combined-performance material from which to choose florescent yellow-green, florescent orange-red and florescent red. Users should consider the work and natural environment to determine the most conspicuous color for daytime use. Is the environment urban or rural, heavy foliage or desert? Are work zone devices and equipment yellow or orange? Choose the florescent color that achieves the **highest** degree of worker contrast.

As a general rule of thumb, below are some images of HVSA that are considered acceptable and unacceptable. This image does not reflect the latest approved garments, it is simply a reference. It is a good practice to keep your HVSA clean and free from excessive dirt. HVSA may be laundered, however, be sure to refer to your label for the number of times a HVSA can be washed before replacing. This is your safety, don't give it away. Be seen, be safe!

Acceptable



New high-visibility safety apparel is characterized by having vivid color contrast and high reflectivity.

Marginal



Characteristics: Good reflectivity although the vest has some soiling and light fading.

Unacceptable



Characteristics: little or no reflectivity, and soiled and faded material.

Acceptable



Apparel that is used but is in like-new condition is characterized as having excellent color contrast, excellent reflectivity, and is not faded or soiled.

Marginal *



Characteristics: Good reflectivity but has some soiling and light fading of material. *Note: This picture was taken with a flash and simulates nighttime conditions.

Unacceptable



Characteristics: Poor color contrast, low or no reflectivity, significant fading or soiling, and deteriorated reflective strips.



As an employer, you must assess your workplace to determine if hazards are present that require the use of PPE/HVSA. If such hazards are present, you must select PPE and require employees to use it, communicate your PPE selection decisions to your employees, and select PPE that properly fits your workers.

Call to Action:

Train your employees on PPE. The Transportation Learning Network (TLN) has self-paced learning modules you can access any time. Most of these modules are under 1 hour in length. Just sign-in to your Learning Management System (LMS) account <https://tln.learnflex.net/users/index.aspx> click on the self-paced learning, in the search box and type PPE. Here are the results of self-paced learning modules:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- TC3 Construction Safety: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- TC3 Inspection Safety for Bridge Construction
- TC3 Safety Orientation
- Employee Safety Awareness



Safety Talks are published by NDLTAP in cooperation with the National Local Technical Assistance Association and participating partner organizations.





Safety Talk Sign-in Sheet Topic:
High Visibility Garments - PPE

Agency: _____

Crew: _____

Supervisor/Talk Leader: _____

Date: _____

Print Name

Signature

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