
 i FACT SHEET

# High-visibility safety apparel

OAR 437 • Division 2/I • Division 3/C



If you work in a street or highway right-of-way and you're exposed to traffic or construction equipment, you must wear a highly visible upper-body garment in accordance with High visibility garments (437-002-0134(7) or 437-003-0134(7), the requirements are identical). Emergency responders and law enforcement officers must also wear high-visibility apparel *after* an emergency has passed and they're doing traffic control, cleanup, investigations, or similar tasks.

Does a worker changing a tire, or a truck driver who is making a delivery, need to wear a high-visibility upper body garment? Either one of these workers may be required to wear high-visibility apparel, depending on their exposure; they may be able to eliminate the exposure during the course of their work.

High-visibility apparel is usually not required for workers such as parking lot attendants and warehouse workers who do not have street or highway exposure; however, wearing the garment makes them more visible. Employers should assess their employees' risk of exposure and make the determination.

## What to wear

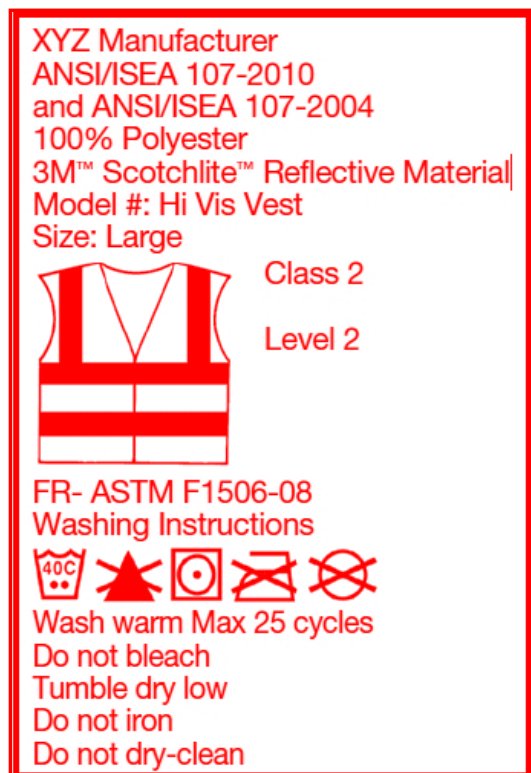
When a worker must wear a high-visibility upper-body garment, Oregon OSHA rules require that the colors of the vest (specified as strong red, orange, yellow, yellow-green, or fluorescent) must contrast with other colors in the area sufficiently to make the person stand out. The garments must also reflect from all sides for 1,000 feet during hours of darkness.

Most employers whose employees are exposed to vehicle traffic follow **The American National Standard for High-Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear, (ANSI/ISEA 107-2010)**, which sets the performance criteria for high-visibility apparel. This includes shirts, rainwear, outerwear, safety vests, and headwear to improve worker visibility in varying conditions. This safety apparel consists of background material, retroreflective material, and combined-performance material.

**Background material** is "colored fluorescent material intended to be highly conspicuous, but not intended to comply with the requirements... for retro-reflective material."

**Retroflective material** is “material that reflects and returns a relatively high proportion of light in a direction close to the direction from which it came.”

**Combined-performance material** is “retroreflective material that is also a fluorescent material and can be counted toward the minimum area requirements for background material.”



*Courtesy of 3M*

ANSI/ISEA requires high-visibility apparel manufacturers to include specific information about their products on the inside label of each garment, including the performance classification number.

**Read the label to make sure the garment is ANSI/ISEA 107-2010 compliant** and that it is the appropriate class for the type of job you're doing.

ANSI/ISEA also has three numbered performance classifications for high-visibility apparel:

### Performance class 1

- Minimum background material: 217 in.<sup>2</sup>
- Minimum retroflective material: 155 in.<sup>2</sup>
- Provides the minimum amount of required material to distinguish the wearer from the environment
- Intended for workers whose tasks don't divert their attention from approaching traffic
- Intended for locations where the worker is separated from traffic traveling no faster than 25 mph

### Performance class 2

- Minimum background material: 775 in.<sup>2</sup>
- Minimum retroflective material: 201 in.<sup>2</sup>
- Provides enhanced visibility during inclement weather
- Intended for workers whose tasks divert their attention from approaching traffic and for those who must work near vehicles exceeding 25 mph

### Performance class 3

- Minimum background material: 1,240 in.<sup>2</sup>
- Minimum retroflective material: 310 in.<sup>2</sup>
- Provides maximum visibility for workers who have tasks that place them in imminent danger from approaching traffic
- Provides maximum visibility when the wearer must be conspicuous at a minimum distance of 1,280 feet

The table below shows typical recommended performance apparel classifications for various types of jobs. To determine the appropriate apparel, always consider the environmental conditions and risk of exposure.

Type of jobs	Performance classification		
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
shopping cart retrievers	✓		
warehouse workers	✓		
delivery truck drivers	✓		
roadway construction workers		✓	✓
utility workers		✓	✓
surveyors		✓	✓
emergency responders		✓	✓
flaggers			✓

*Adapted from ANSI/ISEA 107-2010, Appendix B*

## Applicable rules

**High-visibility garments, 437-002-0134(7)** (general industry) and **437-003-0134(7)** (construction) – Oregon OSHA's key rules on high-visibility apparel. The requirements are identical.

**American National Standard for High-Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear, ANSI/ISEA 107-2010** – establishes the performance criteria for materials used in high-visibility apparel.

**The American National Standard for High-Visibility Public Safety Vests, ANSI/ISEA 207-2006** – establishes the performance criteria for public safety vests used by emergency responders and law enforcement officers.

## Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

**(MUTCD) 2009** – The MUTCD sets national traffic control standards and refers to ANSI/ISEA 107 and ANSI/ISEA 207. Relevant sections of the MUTCD include Chapter 6D, Pedestrian and Worker safety, and Chapter 6E, Flagger Control.



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## Workers

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