

Technology Transfer Brief

WORKER VISIBILITY Final Rule effective November 24, 2008

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Final Rule on Worker Visibility, 23 CFR Part 634, will be effective November 24, 2008. The FHWA's goal is to decrease the likelihood of a worker working on or around any Federal-aid highway right-of-way from being struck by a moving vehicle or a piece of equipment. This rule requires ALL workers to wear high-visibility clothing that can be seen at greater distances therefore, allowing drivers more time to see workers and react accordingly.

To ensure compliance with the FHWA rule, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department's (AHTD) Standard Specification for Highway Construction, Edition of 2003, Subsection 107.01(b), paragraph 3 states that:

All workers within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway who are exposed either to traffic (vehicles using the highway for travel purposes) or to construction equipment within the work area shall wear high-visibility safety apparel meeting the Performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 publication entitled American National Standard for High – Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear.

The AHTD guidelines require all workers working on any Federal-aid highway right-of-way in the State of Arkansas to wear Class 2 or 3 High-Visibility Safety Apparel. The Class 2 safety apparel, the most popular garment, is for workers who are on or near roadways where the posted speed is 25 mph or greater. Workers that are required to wear this class of safety apparel usually fall into one of the following categories:

- roadway construction and maintenance personnel,
- emergency response and law enforcement personnel,
- high-volume parking and toll-gate personnel,
- airport baggage handlers & ground crews,
- utility or railway workers,
- accident site investigators,
- school crossing guards, and
- survey crews.

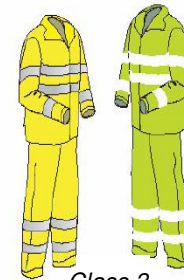
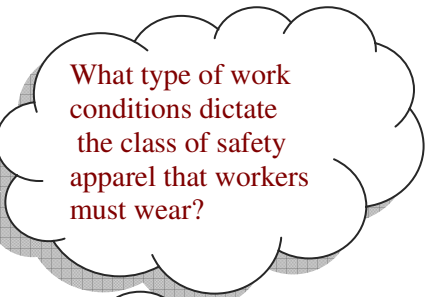


Class 2

The ANSI standard specifies the surface area of the stripes and the background material of the class 2 apparel but does not specify the number of retroreflective stripes it must have. The only way to identify which class of clothing you are looking at is by reading the label.

A worker working in high risk situations or near traffic where speeds exceed 50 mph **and** will be distracted from paying attention to oncoming traffic is required to wear Class 3 safety apparel. This class of safety apparel should allow workers to be seen from a minimum distance of 1,280 feet. Examples of work that would require workers to wear this class of safety apparel are:

- roadway construction or utility workers,
- emergency response personnel,
- law enforcement personnel, and
- survey crews.



Class 3

Typical Class 3 apparel includes clothing that covers most of the upper and lower parts of the body. The new rule does not require a specific number of stripes but each garment must have a minimum surface area of reflective background material.

Figures found at: American Road and Transportation Builders Association 2004, http://www.workzonesafety.org/files/documents/news_events/wz_conference_2004/visibility.pdf Accessed May 15, 2008.

Workers should always ensure they are wearing the appropriate apparel for the environment in which they will be working in. Always check the garment's label for the correct class type. Garments with missing labels should be replaced. If an inspector checks the label and finds a violation, they will issue a citation. Should there be any doubt

about which apparel should be worn, wear Class 3.

Don't get caught short! If your office hasn't purchased High-Visibility Clothing for your workers get started now. Employers can assess their workers' needs by referring to Appendix B of ANSI/ISEA 107-2004. For more information on this rule visit http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2006_register&docid=E6-19910 or <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-notices.htm>. References used for this article: <http://www.reflectivevest.com/ansi.html> and http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/ScotchLiteReflectiveMaterial/ScotchLite/solutions/workwear/ANSI-ISEA-107-2004/

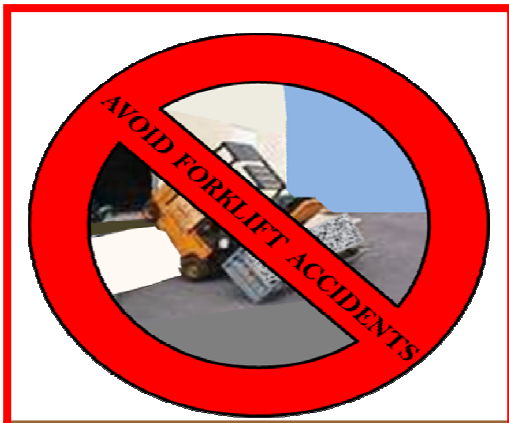
SAFETY TIP

CHANCE TAKERS ARE ACCIDENT MAKERS.

Forklift Operation

OSHA has developed extensive regulations detailing operator training requirements, forklift inspection needs, safe driving rules, and requirements for charging and changing batteries. The regulations even spell out what type of vehicle must be used in certain types of work areas. For example, if you have an area with flammable gases or combustible dusts, it makes a difference how the forklift is powered. The following tips will help

you minimize potential accidents:



Federal safety standards call for all forklift operators to be trained. Do all operators on your site have a documented card or certificate?

- High-lift-rider industrial trucks should be equipped with overhead guards.
- Anyone operating a forklift needs to have been trained and be able to show a valid certificate.
- Rated capacity of the lift should be clearly marked for the operator.
- When general lighting is less than 2 lumens per square foot, auxiliary lights should be provided.
- Steering knobs or spinners should not be installed on steering wheels where the steering hand wheel may spin in rough terrain, such as construction ruts or curbing.
- Battery-powered industrial trucks need designated charging areas with eye wash available, fire protection, and adequate ventilation.
- Operators should always wear seat belts and look out for other workers in the area.

Safety tip provided by the University of Minnesota, Center for Transportation Studies, LTAP Program. For more worker safety tips visit: www.mnltap.umn.edu.

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