



SPECIAL HAZARD WORKWEAR

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HIGH VISIBILITY GARMENTS

The requirements and the facts

Being struck by a moving vehicle is the second most common cause of death in the workplace. It is therefore essential that any high visibility garments issued to employees conform to all relevant performance standards (EN 471:2003, European Standard for High Visibility Clothing), and are worn and maintained correctly for maximum protection.

So what does this mean to you?

In order to comply with all UK and European legislation, you need to ensure that the high visibility garments you buy comply with the following: 'High visibility clothing conforming to EN 471:2003, Table 1, Class 2 or 3, which must be worn at all times.' 'The colour of the background materials should normally be fluorescent yellow from Table 2 of EN 471:2003. The retroreflective materials should comply with Table 5'.

HIGHWAYS AGENCY: CHAPTER 8 TRAFFIC SIGNS MANUAL (PART 2) - OPERATIONS: Para 06.3.2

The workforce and supervisory staff should wear high visibility warning clothing at all times when on site. Clothing shall comply with BS EN 471 Table 1, Class 2 or 3 (Class 3 on motorways and other high speed roads) and shall comply with the requirements of paragraph 4.2.3(b) of the Standard. The colour of the clothing shall normally be fluorescent yellow or fluorescent orange-red complying with Table 2 of the Standard.

The retroreflective material shall be to Class 2 as defined in Table 5 of the Standard. In addition, on motorways and other high speed roads, high visibility jackets or coveralls shall have full length sleeves meeting the requirement of paragraph 4.2.4 of BS EN 471. This requirement may be varied to three-quarter-length sleeves where a risk assessment shows full-length sleeves would present increased risk due to the activity being undertaken. Staff should also wear high visibility trousers complying with Class 1 of BS EN 471 where the carrying of large items of equipment or other activities may at any time obscure the visibility of the high visibility jacket or vest.

All Retroreflective Materials used in our High Vis Clothing exceed the highest brightness category of EN 471, Table 5.

Retroreflective Materials greatly enhance your visibility in low light situations. This reflective material returns light to a light source – such as vehicle headlights – creating a bright image that motorists are more likely to see from a distance. As a result, motorists and pedestrians have more time to react.



NOTE: From July 1995 high-visibility clothing issued in accordance with the PPE Regulations must carry a CE mark. All garments featured here meet this requirement.

EN 471 Garment Classifications

Garment types are grouped into three classes based on the conspicuity provided, with the classes dictating the minimum quantities of background and retroreflective materials to be used.

CLASS 3: Highest Protection Level:

Bands of retroreflective material shall not be less than 50mm wide. Minimum background material 0.80m². Minimum retroreflective material 0.20m². A revised version of EN471 was published in March 2004. One of the major changes in this version is that horizontal reflective bands can now have an incline of ±20°.



Typical Class 3 Jacket

CLASS 2: Intermediate Protection Level:

Bands of retroreflective material shall not be less than 50mm wide. Minimum background material 0.50m². Minimum retroreflective material 0.13m².



Typical Class 2 Waistcoats

CLASS 1: Lowest Protection Level:

Where enhanced visibility is an advantage, but for minimal risk/off road purposes only. Bands of retroreflective material shall not be less than 50mm wide. Minimum background material 0.14m². Minimum retroreflective material 0.10m².

Highways Agency: Temporary Traffic Management on High Speed Roads: Good Working Practice (Section W7)

Operatives who are engaged in activities on live traffic lanes should wear High Visibility Garments to BS EN 471. Table 1: Class 3



Care and Maintenance - High Visibility Garment Tips

- The dirtier a hi-vis garment gets, the less effective it becomes. Make sure that garments are washed regularly, or thrown away when they become too worn.
- Do not allow sections to be cut off hi-vis garments – the level of protection they provide depends on the areas of fluorescent and retroreflective materials included within the garment.
- Make sure that the garment is worn fastened whenever possible to ensure maximum protection and reduce the risk of entanglement with moving machinery etc.

Full range of GO/RT 3279: Issue 6
Railway Group Standard High Visibility clothing is also featured in this section

