



# TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

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## Safety Apparel within the Right-of-Way

**H**APPY NEW YEAR! It's hard to believe that 2015 is behind us and we are beginning a new year, 2016. As we move forward into the New Year, TOIRMA would like to assist you in keeping safety a number one priority.

Recently, I attended an Illinois Department of Transportation training program in Springfield, focusing on roadway safety. One of the topics discussed during this session was work zone apparel. This brings forward some interesting questions that may help you in determining the types of safety apparel for you and your workers in the coming year.

**Question:** What are the apparel (clothing) requirements for workers within a public right-of-way?

**Answer:** According to the *Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices*<sup>1</sup> (MUTCD):

*"All workers... within the right-of-way who are exposed either to traffic (vehicles using the highway for purposes of travel) or to work vehicles and construction equipment ... shall wear high-visibility safety apparel that meets 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' (see section 1A.11), or equivalent revisions, and labeled as meeting the ANSI 107-2004 standard performance for Class 2 or 3 risk exposure."*

**Question:** What type of apparel worn by workers within the right-of-way exposed to traffic or to construction equipment meets the minimum requirements?



**Answer:** Performance Class 2 apparel meets the minimum requirements for workers within the right-of-way such as a road district roadway.<sup>2</sup>

Performance Class 2, Image Courtesy of Hi Viz Inc. (hivizinc.com)

**Question:** What are some general examples of conditions where a worker would be required to wear Performance Class 2 apparel?

**Answer:** Daytime activities within the right-of-way in which Performance Class 2 is applicable generally include roadway construction work, utility work, or surveying for example.<sup>3</sup> This also includes: mowing, inspection, maintenance, road signage installation, incident response, and volunteer work, such as adopt-a-highway.<sup>2</sup>

**Question:** What is Performance Class 3 apparel?

**Answer:** Performance Class 3 apparel provides for the greatest visibility of workers.<sup>1</sup> This type of apparel has sleeves and more background and reflective material, therefore increasing visibility.

**Question:** What are some general examples of conditions where a worker would be required to wear Performance Class 3 apparel?

**Answer:** Performance Class 3 apparel is worn in high-hazard or low-light conditions.<sup>2</sup> Examples of applicable conditions include: flagging operations, traffic control setup and removal (such as cones or barrels), incident response in an emergency, particularly at night, and emergency utility crews.<sup>1</sup> Class 3 apparel is also

worn when workers are exposed to a higher speed of traffic.



Performance Class 3, Image Courtesy of Hi Viz Inc. (hivizinc.com)

**Question:** Can Performance Class 2 apparel be combined with another Class to equal Class 3?

**Answer:** Yes. A common combination is when a highway worker may wear a Class 2 vest in the daytime, and then add Class E garment (pants) during the nighttime. This combination is considered a Performance Class 3 ensemble.

**Question:** Are there particular colors for Performance Class 2 and 3 clothing?

**Answer:** Yes. Fluorescent yellow-green, fluorescent orange-red and fluorescent red are the permissible color types. It is recommended that you choose the fluorescent color that achieves the highest degree of worker contrast as it relates to working environment.

**Question:** How does an official know the Performance Class of apparel?

**Answer:** The label of the apparel should have marking that includes: name, trademark, or other means of identifying the manufacturer or authorized representative; designation of the product type, commercial name or code; size designation; number of this specific ANSI/ISEA standard (ANSI/ISEA 107-2004); pictogram

showing the garment Class and Level of performance for the retroreflective material; care labeling with FTC symbols and maximum cycles for the cleaning process; and instructions for use (if applicable).<sup>4</sup>

**Question:** Who should a township official consult with prior to purchasing apparel for its workers?

**Answer:** We recommend reaching out to your county engineer and discussing this prior to purchase.

We hope you find this information helpful. As always, if you have any further questions regarding this topic, please feel free to contact me at (888) 562-7861 or by email at [jdonelan@toirma.org](mailto:jdonelan@toirma.org).

Happy New Year! Please remember to “Think Safe ... Drive Safe ... Work Safe.”



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### Sources:

- 1 – *Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MTCUD)* - Worker Safety Considerations Section 6D.03.
- 2 – *High Visibility Apparel in Work Zones – Characteristics of High-Visibility Safety Apparel, 2009*, The Americal Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA).
- 3 – *High Visibility Clothing for Heavy & Highway Construction*, American Road & Transportation Builders Association, 2010.
- 4 – *ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 MADE EASY: A Quick Reference to High-Visibility Safety Apparel*, Personal Safety 3M Occupational Health and Environmental Safety Division



## Annual Renewal Packets

TOIRMA will be mailing Annual Renewal Packets to each of our member contacts during the month of January. If you are the contact person, please review the contents of the packet. If you are not the contact person, please ask your contact person to review the packet. The supervisor and highway commissioner should review and send the requested information to our office. Packets include: (1) Comprehensive General Liability Questionnaire, (2) listing of the Values for Vehicles; Inland Marine Equipment; and Buildings/Contents, and (3) listing of Estimated Payroll. **Your coverage is dependent on the accuracy of this information, so your reply is key.** Renewal packets are due to TOIRMA by March 1, 2016.