



TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

High Visibility Safety Apparel

IT'S NO SECRET that highway commissioners and employees throughout the state are working directly on roads this during the spring and summer months. Township officials, as well as residents, prefer smooth roadways that are free of construction. The unfortunate part of that statement is that it sometimes takes working directly within the right-of-way to get to this preferred condition.

Working within the right-of-way is dangerous and we encourage our members to be as safe as possible. Our loss control efforts are contingent upon our members' involvement. Please consider this and do your part in keeping yourself and your employees safe during roadway projects. Wearing the proper safety apparel/clothing while working within the right-of-way is an important safety practice to this end.

The following questions have been developed to assist highway commissioners and employees in wearing proper safety clothing while working within the road district right-of-way. We have utilized these questions in the past and thank Tim Peters from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Technology Transfer Center for his assistance. Due to the printing of this publication being in black and white, we encourage you to visit the "Safety Items" section of our "Toolbox" on our website, toirma.org to view the images in-color.

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

Answer: According to the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices¹: "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 **Class 3** requirements of the ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 publication entitled 'American National Standard for High-Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear' (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** or **Class 3** apparel meets the minimum requirements for workers within the right-of-way such as a road district roadway.

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.³ This also includes: mowing, inspection, maintenance, road signage installation, incident response, and volunteer work such as adopt-a-highway.²

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

Answer: **Performance Class 3** apparel provides for the greatest visibility of workers.¹ This type of apparel has sleeves, or legs 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.² Examples of applicable conditions include working at night doing the following: flagging operations, traffic control setup and removal (such as cones or barrels), incident response in an emergency, and emergency utility crews.¹

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 **Class 3** clothing?

Answer: Yes. Fluorescent yellow-green and fluorescent orange-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 markings that include: 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).⁴

Question: Who can you consult with prior to purchasing apparel for highway commissioners and workers?

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

TOIRMA also offers a “Safety Presentation” which includes a hands-on demonstration of the proper safety apparel to use within the right-of-way. Please contact our office if you are interested.

We hope you find this information helpful and thank you for your cooperation.

As always, if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me toll-free at (888) 562-7861 or by email at jdonelan@toirma.org.

Think Safe ... Drive Safe ... Work Safe

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 American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA).

³ High Visibility Clothing for Heavy & Highway Construction, American Road & Transportation Builders Association, 2010.

⁴ NSI/ISEA 107-2004 MADE EASY: A Quick Reference to High-Visibility Safety Apparel, Personal Safety Products, 3M Occupational Health and Environmental Safety Division



IN THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES, being a local governmental official is extremely important for your communities. Thank you for your continued service and for doing your part in helping the prevention of the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please find the following websites offering useful information pertaining to COVID-19.

- Illinois Department of Public Health: www.dph.illinois.gov
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov

The best of health to township officials, employees, and your families.

— *Jim Donelan, TOIRMA Executive Director*