

Bell, Tammi [DOT]

From: Bell, Tammi [DOT]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2008 12:22 PM
To: Bell, Tammi [DOT]
Subject: Work Zone Visibility - Reminder

TO: County Engineers, City Representatives, and Consultants
Tammi Bell Iowa DOT - Local Systems tammi.bell@dot.iowa.gov

CC: District Local Systems Engineers, Service Bureau,
Mark Bortle, and Office of Local Systems

FROM: Office of Local Systems

SUBJECT: Work Zone Visibility - Reminder

DATE: November 6, 2008

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is providing notice to organizations regarding new federal worker visibility regulations that will become effective on November 28, 2008. These regulations affect any workers exposed to traffic or construction equipment on a federal-aid highway.

The specific language of Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations Part 634 – Worker Visibility – is as follows:

All workers within the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway who are exposed either to traffic (vehicles using the highway for purposes of travel) or to construction equipment within the work area shall wear high visibility safety apparel.

All Iowa interstate and primary (state route designation) highways, as well as many county roads and city streets, are federal-aid highways for purposes of compliance with this regulation.

Effective November 24, 2008, as specified in this regulation, any individual (worker) whose work activities place him/her within a federal-aid highway right-of-way will be required to wear high visibility safety apparel.

As per this regulation, high-visibility safety apparel is defined as personal protective safety clothing that is intended to provide conspicuity during both daytime and nighttime usage and 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.’’

Workers are defined as people on foot whose duties place them within the right of way of a federal-aid highway such as highway construction and maintenance forces, survey crews, utility crews, incident responders and law enforcement personnel when performing duties such as directing traffic, investigating crashes or handling lane closures or obstructed roadways.

Public agencies can purchase Class 2 ANSI 107-2004 safety apparel through the Iowa DOT’s warehouse by calling 515-239-1574. Others can purchase the required safety apparel through any number of private companies.

For additional information, please refer to the following summary of these new requirements: http://www.iowadot.gov/local_systems/mailing/2008/november/visible_aparel_factsheet.dfp

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mark Bortle, PE, Traffic Safety Engineer, Office of Construction, Iowa DOT at 515-239-1587 or by e-mail mark.bortle@dot.iowa.gov.

Please do not hit the reply option in your e-mail note.

Thanks

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Mailings are available at the Local Systems Weekly Mailing web address http://www.iowadot.gov/local_systems/mailing/main_mailing.htm

Federal Highway Administration issues new rule on High-Visibility Apparel

It's about you!

Visibility is a leading concern for workers on foot who must perform tasks near moving vehicles or equipment. Being seen means being safe. Workers on or near a path of travel are often focused on the task at hand, and the ability to be easily and quickly recognized by surrounding drivers and equipment operators within the work area is crucial.

In an effort to decrease the likelihood of fatalities or injuries to workers within the rights-of-way of federal-aid highways, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued the final rule on worker visibility on November 24, 2006.

23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 634 states:

“All workers within the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway who are exposed either to traffic (vehicles using the highway for purposes of travel) or to construction equipment within the work area shall wear high-visibility apparel. ”

Definitions included in the rule are as follows:

Workers - any person on foot whose duties place them within the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway, including highway construction and maintenance workers, survey crews, utility crews, responders to incidents within the highway right-of-way, law enforcement personnel, and any other personnel whose job duties put them on the federal-aid highway right-of-way.

All workers performing duties within the highway right-of-way are exposed to the same hazards as road construction and maintenance workers. Enhancing the visibility of all workers on or in close proximity to the highway will greatly improve safety.

Federal-aid highways - all highways maintained by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) and some county highways and municipal streets.

High-visibility apparel - personal protective safety clothing that is intended to provide conspicuity during both daytime and nighttime usage, and that meets the Performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 publication entitled, “American National Standards for High-Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear.”

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 107-2004, developed in conjunction with the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA), is currently the nationally recognized standard for high-visibility apparel. Copies may be obtained at: www.safetyequipment.org/hivisstd.htm.

Compliance with 23 CFR 634

Agencies are required to adopt policies and procedures to comply with the rule no later than **Nov. 24, 2008.**

Iowa DOT Requirements

After November 28, 2008, all DOT personnel and contractor personnel working on projects let through the Department shall wear ANSI 107 Class 2 apparel at all times when present in the highway right-of-way.

Federal Highway Administration issues new rule on High-Visibility Apparel

Choosing ANSI/ISEA compliant high-visibility apparel

Choose a garment that meets the Performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 publication entitled, "American National Standards for High-Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear."

ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 performance classes are specified in terms of the minimum area of the materials incorporated in the garment.

Performance Class 2 apparel provides superior visibility for wearers by the additional coverage of the torso.

Performance Class 3 apparel offers greater visibility to the wearer in both complex backgrounds and through a full range of body movements. Visibility is increased beyond Performance Class 2 by the enhancement of background and reflective materials to the arms and/or legs.

Performance Class E apparel, like shorts and trousers, and high-visibility **Headwear**, including baseball caps and knit hats, will complement overall visibility of the wearer, but are not required by 23 CFR 634. However, wearing a Class 2 vest with Class E long pants is another way to meet Class 3 requirements.

Performance Class 2 Performance Class 3



Component Colors

Fluorescent yellow-green has been proven by ANSI/ISEA to have the highest luminance factor and is the required background color for Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) employees. For all other users, there are three different colors for background and combined performance (reflective or retroreflective) material from which to choose: fluorescent yellow-green, fluorescent orange-red and fluorescent red. Choose the color that provides the most contrast between the user and his or her environment.

Performance Class E

A garment can only be labeled ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 compliant after all material performance and design requirements have been met.

ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 compliant garments will be clearly labeled with the following information:

- Name, trademark or other means of identifying the manufacturer
- Designation of the product type, commercial name or code
- Size
- Number of the specific ANSI/ISEA standard (ANSI/ISEA 107-2004)
- Pictogram indicating the garment class and level of performance for the retroreflective material
- Care labeling instructions
- Instructions for use (if applicable)

Cost

According to FHWA research, the average cost of an ANSI Class 2 garment is \$25. The useful service life of the vests depends greatly on the duties being performed. FHWA research found that garments worn on a daily basis have a useful service life of approximately six months. Garments worn less often are expected to have a useful service life of up to three years.