

Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration
High Visibility Safety Apparel Policy

This policy replaces all pre-existing high visibility apparel policies.

Recommended by:



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Approved by:



Gregory A. Slater
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Date:

Date:

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Research demonstrates that high visibility safety apparel has a significant impact on the safety of employees who work on highways and rights-of-way.
- 1.2 In addition, high visibility safety apparel may help to prevent injuries and accidents and to make highway workers more visible to the motoring public, which ultimately improves traffic safety.

2. STATEMENT OF POLICY

- 2.1 The High Visibility Safety Apparel Policy provides a standardized apparel program.
- 2.2 The program seeks to improve the visibility of all persons who work on Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) highways and rights-of-way.
- 2.3 All safety apparel shall contain the appropriate label identifying the class.
- 2.4 Compliance with this policy was effective as of January 1, 2019.

3. APPLICABILITY

- 3.1 This policy applies to all MDOT SHA employees and all other persons who work on Maryland state highways and rights-of-way.
- 3.2 This policy exceeds the standards referenced in the Maryland Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MD MUTCD) 2011 Edition.
- 3.3 All workers shall wear, at a minimum, a single ANSI/ISEA 107/2015 Class 3 safety garment on the upper torso.
- 3.4 All ANSI Class 3 safety garments must be worn fully fastened to meet ANSI/ISEA 107/2015 specifications.
- 3.5 MDOT SHA employee garments shall have a fluorescent yellow-green background material color and be the outermost garment worn.
- 3.6 MDOT SHA employee garment retro-reflective material color shall be silver or white and shall be visible at minimum distance of 1,000 feet. The retro-reflective safety

apparel shall be designed to clearly recognize and differentiate the wearer as a person from the surrounding work environment. The retro-reflective material may be contrasted by fluorescent orange background material not to exceed one-and-one-half inches on either side of the retro-reflective material.

- 3.7 SPECIAL NOTE: A breakaway vest may be considered for certain tasks to prevent entanglement.
- 3.8 Non-MDOT SHA workers' garments shall be approved ANSI/ISEA 107/2015 Class 3 for wear on the upper torso that is either fluorescent orange-red or fluorescent yellow-green background material color and must be the outermost garment worn.
- 3.9 Non-MDOT SHA workers' garments retro-reflective material color shall be orange, yellow, white, silver, yellow-green, or fluorescent version of these colors, and be visible at a minimum distance of 1,000 feet. The retro-reflective safety apparel shall be designed to clearly recognize and differentiate the wearer as a person from the surrounding work environment.
- 3.10 For all MDOT SHA and non-MDOT SHA workers applicable to this Policy, it is recommended that all ANSI Class 3 safety garments under this Policy be cared for according to the manufacturer specifications.

4. REFERENCES

- 4.1 ANSI/ISEA 107/2015 standard — American National Safety Institute/International Safety Equipment Association
- 4.2 MUTCD 2011 -Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices - Sections 6D.03 Paragraph 4 and 6E.02
- 4.3 Visibility Research — The VCTR 1989 report concludes that fluorescent colors, when compared with non-fluorescent colors, enhance the daytime conspicuity of worker clothing.

5. DEFINITIONS

- 5.1 Highways — all Maryland roadways owned and maintained by MDOT SHA .
- 5.2 High Visibility Safety Apparel (HVSA) — Personal protective safety clothing intended to ensure roadside workers stand-out to drivers during both daytime and nighttime, and other low-light condition usage. The outermost high-visibility garment worn by MDOT SHA and non-MDOT SHA workers who work on MDOT SHA highways and rights-of-way.
- 5.3 Retro-reflective Material – Material that reflects and returns a relatively high proportion of light in a direction close to the direction from which it came.
- 5.4 Background Material – Colored fluorescent material intended to be highly visible, but when not used in conjunction with retro-reflective material as intended, are not compliant with the requirements of this standard for retro-reflective material.
- 5.5 Breakaway – A garment system that allows workers to quickly remove the vest for additional safety around extreme traffic hazards, moving machinery, or equipment.