

## New High Visibility Standard

Every year, more than 100 workers are killed and 20,000 injured in the highway and street construction industry, according to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The circulation of a new worker visibility rule, which ensures workers are easier to see in both the day and night, could help to reduce the number of worker injuries and deaths.

The FHWA's new worker visibility rule (23 CFR Part 634) is now in effect. Under the rule, every worker or volunteer in the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway who is exposed to traffic or construction equipment within the work areas, must wear high-visibility safety apparel. It does not matter if that worker is an employee for the state filling a pothole, a television reporter at the scene of a crash site or a volunteer picking up trash on the side of a highway, all must comply with the rule.

Compliance with the new rule can be achieved by meeting the performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 voluntary consensus standard. To comply with the ANSI standard, a garment's background and retroreflective material must be tested and certified by an independent, accredited third-party laboratory.

### Key points

- The rule applies to virtually every worker setting foot on federally funded roadways.
- Compliance can be achieved by following the ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 voluntary standard.
- Plans are in place to expand the rule to state and local roads.

### What This Means For Counties

Workers are now required to wear high-visibility apparel while on federally funded roadways. In the future, the requirement will extend to all roads. Look for manufacturer's certificates of compliance to verify that particular garment models meet the safety requirements of ANSI 107-2004. If a county fails to comply with the rule, its FHWA funding could be at stake.

For more information, contact CTSI at 303-861-0507.