



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

April 14, 2003

Safety Vests

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS #03-07
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The department has issued a safety vest policy. As of September 1, 2003, **all** Division of Highways employees working outside a vehicle (car or truck) within 25 feet of pavement open to traffic, (except when working behind concrete barrier wall or guardrail) shall wear the department issued fluorescent yellow/green ANSI Class 2 vest. This bicolor vest is approximately 60 percent fluorescent yellow/green background material with the remaining 40 percent of the surface consisting of fluorescent orange stripes with reflective material. However, workers may purchase and wear other garments with a fluorescent yellow/green background with fluorescent orange stripes in place of the vest. All garments worn shall retain the manufacturer's tags identifying them as meeting the ANSI Class 2 requirements.

The driving force behind the department's policy was the Department of Labor which follows Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. In its regulation 29 CFR 1926.651 (d), OSHA provides requirements for workers that are exposed to vehicular traffic, "employees exposed to public vehicular traffic shall be provided with, and shall wear, warning vests or other suitable garments marked with or made of reflectorized or high visibility material." OSHA also references Section 6E.02 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which requires flaggers to wear high visibility, reflective apparel. When asked by the department to define what OSHA considers to be "garments of reflectorized or high visibility material", OSHA referred to ANSI/ISEA 107-1999 (i.e. ANSI Class 2 garments).

In preparation for the upcoming maintenance and construction season, local agencies should be aware that OSHA has the authority to cite agencies if employees are not wearing the ANSI Class 2 garments when exposed to vehicular traffic. For those local agencies that participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program, the IDOT district coordinators will continue to provide safe vests for those individuals participating in the program.

Question may be directed to your district or Teresa Price at (217) 785-1664.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darrell W. Lewis, P.E.
Acting Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

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