

Introduction to High Visibility Workwear

All protective high visibility gear should meet the requirements of The Safety at Street Work and Road Works Code of Practice.



British Standard **EN 471** sets minimum standards of visual performance and durability needed for high visibility clothing worn in the course of a trade or profession and is **mandatory**. **BS EN 471** provides for three classes of basic design (Classes 1, 2 and 3) and two levels of retro-reflectivity Level 1 and Level 2, appropriate to the risks in a particular occupational environment. (Level 2 gives the highest reflectivity).



APPROPRIATE ROAD USES

CLASS 1 EN471 LOW

Class 1 is the lowest level of protection and should only be worn in areas of minimal risk, e.g. off-road situations. For occupations that require the wearer to be working with road traffic they will require class 2 or higher.



Appropriate for off-road uses



Class 1 garments are NOT suitable for working with road traffic.

CLASS 2 EN471 INTERMEDIATE

Class 2 is the minimum requirement when working on roads. Certain industries may have established codes of practice that give guidance on the selection of high visibility clothing, when working in certain road conditions.



Appropriate for road uses



Only suitable on roads where the speed limit is LESS than 40mph.

CLASS 3 EN471 HIGH

Class 3 incorporates the largest areas of fluorescent and reflective materials. Class 3 should be worn on trunk roads and all other roads forming the Primary Route Network (PRN), as well as roads displaying green/blue directional signs.



Appropriate for road uses



Should be worn on all roads where the speed limit is 40mph and above.

HIGH-VISIBILITY PPE AND RETRO-REFLECTIVE BAND CLASSES

There are 3 PPE categories:

Category I: PPE to protect against minimum risks

Category II: PPE to protect against medium to high grade risks, although not mortal or irreversible

Category III: PPE to protect against life-threatening or irreversible risks



X High-visibility PPE classes:

Class 1: Low visibility level fluorescent 0.14m², retro-reflective 0.10m² or combined 0.20m²

Class 2: Medium visibility level fluorescent 0.50m² and retro-reflective 0.13m²

Class 3: High visibility level fluorescent 0.80m² and retro-reflective 0.20m²

Y Retro-reflective band classes:

Class 1: Medium retro-reflective level

Class 2: High retro-reflective level



Water Penetration/ Breathability

This standard encompasses materials and stitching and is divided into two sections: water penetration and resistance to water vapour.

For water penetration there are three classes, where Class 2 requires Wp (water pressure) ≥ 8000 Pa and Class 3 requires Wp ≥ 13000 Pa. Class 1 requires the same as Class 2, but without pre-treatment.

For resistance to water vapour (RET), (the lower the rating the greater the penetration) there are 3 classes:

Class 1: RET ≥ 40 **Class 2:** 20 < RET ≤ 40 **Class 3:** RET ≤ 20



Protective Clothing Labels

General requirements

- Manufacturers mark
- Product identifying mark
- Size or size range
- Specific hazard protection plus performance levels where applicable
- Care labelling

MAX 25X

60°



TECHNOLOGY
Superior Distance Signalling

Increases the high visibility nature of the retro-reflective bands, enabling the wearer to be seen at greater distances when illuminated.