

What is the CSA Standard for High Visibility Safety Apparel (HVSA)?

CSA Standard Z96-09 is the standard for HVSA. It provides a standard for the elements that go in to the construction of an HVSA garment, which includes two types of materials: fluorescent background materials for daytime visibility, and retro-reflective tape for nighttime visibility. CSA also provides a standard for the design of the garment, according to the 3 different classes.

Background Material

Colours for background material can be fluorescent yellow-green, fluorescent orange-red or fluorescent red. These change in FR garments, which because of the materials used cannot hold fluorescent dyes. In these cases the material must be bright yellow-green or bright orange only. The requirements can be found in the CSA standard table 2a for fluorescent materials and table 2b for bright (FR) materials.

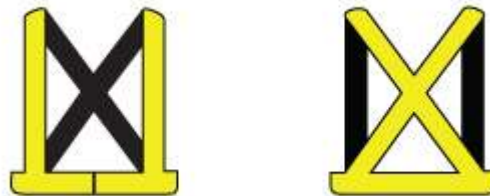
Retro-Reflective Tape

If the retro-reflective tape is going to be coloured, it can be fluorescent yellow-green, fluorescent red-orange or fluorescent red. Otherwise, it should be a standard retro-reflective of either white or silver tape. Retro-reflective tape can either be level 2, level 1, or level FR, depending on the class of the garment required. The minimum performance levels for these tapes can be found in tables 5, 6, and 7 of the CSA Z96-09 Standard.

Design

Class 1

A Class 1 garment provides minimal visibility. The retro-reflective material must consist of two vertical stripes on the front, an "X" on the back, and a horizontal band around the waist. The horizontal band does not have to continue between the two vertical stripes on the front. Fluorescent background material is not mandatory on a Class 1 garment.



Class 2

A Class 2 has the same requirements for retro-reflective tape as a Class 1. A Class 2 garment also provides full coverage of the upper torso with fluorescent background material, including over the shoulders, front, back and sides. Coverage on the side of the torso under the arms must cover at least 50% of the length of the entire garment.



Class 3

A class 3 garment includes all of the same requirements as a Class 2 garment, with the addition of retro-reflective bands on each limb. Additional fluorescent background material is not necessarily required, but will provide greater surface area for improved daytime visibility.



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