What Is Required for Vehicle Visibility?

ANSI sets the requirements. Work vehicles need:

- Flashing or rotating beacons, strobe lights.
- Retroreflective tape to define size and shape
  - 2-inch band of red-white shape.
- Keep lights and tape clean.
- Make sure lights work properly.

What About Other Work Zone Items?

Here are considerations for other work zone items:

- Equipment, materials, and hazards all must be made visible.
- Store equipment away from work zone or protect it with barriers, crash cushions, or channelizing devices.
- Never store work equipment in a buffer zone.

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What Are Hi-Viz Garments?

High-visibility garments make us highly visible under a range of day and night conditions. Hi-Viz characteristics:
- Fluorescent background colors — orange, yellow, and green.
- Retroreflective material in orange, yellow, white, silver, and green.
- Visible at 1,000 feet or more.
- Required for ALL workers within the right-of-way.

What Garments Should We Wear?

Wear garments recommended for night work. Requirements:

- ANSI/ISEA 107 provides 3 classes of high-visibility apparel.
- For most road work, Class 2 is a minimum.
- For night work, Class 3 is highly recommended.
- Class 2 and 3 are required on Federal projects.
- Localities may have additional requirements.
- Class 1 is not allowed on Federal projects.

Class 3 Apparel: For work when exposed to high speed traffic and/or conditions where visibility of workers may be reduced. For conditions where equipment operators perform tasks near pedestrian workers. Worker must be conspicuous through a full range of body motions at a minimum of 1,280 feet and identifiable as a person. Examples are flaggers, roadway construction workers, utility survey crews, and emergency responders.

How Do We Inspect Hi-Viz Garments?

Inspect your garments before each use:
- Garments must be clean.
- Proper reflectivity — visible from 1,000 feet, day or night.
- Not faded, torn, dirty, worn, or defaced.
- No fraying or missing stripes.
- Proper fit to allow motorists to recognize a human shape.
- Service life is about 6 months of everyday use.

To learn more about when garments should be replaced, see the Roadway Safety Plus module ‘Night Work — High Visibility’.