Annex B  High-Visibility Safety Apparel

For FM employees and contractors working in low-light conditions (e.g. power shutdowns), on roofs, or outside, (including on/near roads or susceptible to injury from vehicles or other dangers), high-visibility clothing shall be worn. High-visibility safety apparel (HVSA) is clothing (e.g. “5-point tear away” vests, bibs, shirts or coveralls) ensure that workers are more visible and to alert drivers or others of a worker’s presence.

CSA lists three classes of garments based on body coverage provided. Each class covers the torso (waist to neck) and/or limbs according to the minimum body coverage areas specified for each class.

Class 1: Class 1 provides the lowest recognized coverage and good visibility. Apparel consists of a basic harness or stripes/bands over the shoulder(s) and encircling the waist. The center portion of the front torso band between the two vertical bands is optional.

Examples of situations where you may use Class 1:

- Workers in activities that permit full and undivided attention to approaching traffic.
- When work backgrounds are not complex, allowing for optimal visibility.
- When workers on foot are separated from traffic (e.g. by barriers).
- Workers directing vehicle operators to parking or service locations.
- “Right-of-Way” or sidewalk maintenance workers.
- When vehicles or equipment are moving between < 35 km/hr (20 mph).
Class 2: Class 2 provides moderate body coverage and superior visibility. Apparel provides wearer with more visibility than Class 1. Apparel has full coverage of the upper torso (front, back, sides, and over the shoulders) and includes bib-style overalls. Stripes/bands are composed of retroreflective or combined performance materials.

Examples of situations where you may use Class 2:

- When vehicles or equipment are moving between 40-80 km/h (25-50 mph).
- Workers who require greater visibility under inclement weather conditions or low light.
- When workers are performing tasks that divert attention from approaching vehicle traffic.
- When work activities are in closer proximity to vehicles (in or near flowing vehicle traffic).
- Roadway construction, utility, forestry or railway workers.
- Roadside vehicle maintenance workers.

![Figure 1: Examples of Class 1 Apparel: Harness or Colour / Retroreflective Stripes on Other Clothing](image)

![Figure 2: Examples of Class 2 Apparel: Vests](image)
Class 3 - Class 3 provides the greatest body coverage and visibility under poor light conditions and at great distance. Apparel meets the same requirements as Class 2 with the addition of bands around both arms and legs. These bands are made up of combined performance stripes/bands or a combination of retroreflective and background material. Background material can cover the whole garment or a portion of the garment.

Examples of situations where you may use Class 3:

- Roadway construction workers in inclement weather, road closures, complex lane shifts
- Utility workers & Survey crews
- Flaggers in night operations and/or high congestion areas

Figure 3
Examples of Class 3 Apparel
Jackets and Overalls

From CSA Standard Z96-09 High-Visibility Safety Apparel (Table 1 and Annex B), CSA Z96.1, Guideline on selection, use, and care of high-visibility safety apparel, and “Choosing the Best High-Visibility Apparel in a Variety of Roadway Scenarios” (2005), American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA).