

## 3M produces a CD to help emergency services specify

When high visibility garments are supplied to employees as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), they must comply with the requirements set out in the European Standard EN471:2003. However, because of the nature of the job, high visibility garments worn by the emergency services often need additional, high performance attributes. As there are so many different fabrics, films, trims, tapes and materials available on the market, it can be difficult to select or specify the most appropriate one for the job. With this in mind, 3M, a leading supplier of retro-reflective materials, has produced a CD specifically for use by the emergency services. The CD helps to explain the EN471 test methods and the range of EN471 compliant, Scotchlite™ Reflective Materials that 3M recommends for emergency services garments.



The CD offers detailed explanations of the seven core requirements of EN471:2003 (brightness, abrasion-resistance, flexing, folding at cold temperatures, resistance to temperature variation, washing and dry cleaning, and performance in the rain). In addition, it explains how 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Materials work, and informs the reader of the different performance characteristics, types of material, and appliance methods available for different applications within the emergency services.

Qasim Abdullah, Product Manager for 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Materials, recommends that, “When specifying high visibility clothing for use as PPE, first and foremost, and as a minimum, the clothing buyer must ensure that the entire garment complies with EN471:2003. All components of a high visibility garment should be carefully considered before selection. And finally, additional, application-specific requirements should be considered. For instance, garments may need to be thermally decontaminated or be able to withstand a wide range of temperatures, chemicals, smoke, oil or grime. Whether an emergency service’s key requirements are comfort, protection against infection, flame retardancy, identification, security or are even budget-led, the safety of personnel should be paramount.”

In addition to exceeding the minimum requirements of EN471:2003, 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Materials incorporating glass bead technology offer comfort, flexibility and freedom of movement – three vital factors that, when the tape is applied to the garment, make the garment comfortable to wear. The range of Scotchlite™ Reflective Materials include films, tapes and trims that have been developed specifically for use by the emergency services, for example:

- Resistance to high temperature washes. Temperatures of up to 92° are often used to ensure removal of harmful pathogens from garments.
- Flame Retardancy
- Custom imaging – for increased security
- Customisation: Reflective badging, graphics or chequer design provides instant identification.

For more information, for a copy of the CD, or if you would like to arrange a visit by a 3M Representative to discuss your requirements, please call Manchester Sales Office: 0161 237 6269. For further information on our range of Scotchlite™ Reflective Materials, please visit our website: [www.scotchlite.co.uk](http://www.scotchlite.co.uk)

#### About 3M

3M is continually finding new ways to make amazing things happen. It is inspired by working closely with its customers to create innovative products that help make the world smarter, faster, healthier and safer. Well-known 3M brands include Scotch, Post-It, Scotchgard, Thinsulate and Scotch-Brite.

3M was founded in 1902 and has pioneered technological innovation ever since, including: reflective materials used in road signs; the latest flexible 'soft casts' for broken limbs; a new class of drugs to treat skin cancer; display enhancement films making electronic displays brighter; and fire protection products that help against the spread of fire, smoke and toxic fumes.

Today 3M employs 67,000 people worldwide to deliver an extensive range of products, technologies and services to its customers in more than 200 countries. Its diverse technologies and products touch nearly every aspect of modern life, from consumer and office, display and graphics, electronics and telecommunications, safety, security and protection services, health care, industrial and transportation markets.



3M United Kingdom PLC  
3M Centre  
Cain Road, Bracknell  
Berkshire, RG12 8HT  
Tel: 0870 60 800 60

3M Ireland  
3M House, Adelphi Centre  
Upper Georges Street, Dun Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin, Ireland  
Tel: 1 800 320 500

[www.3m.com/uk/ohes](http://www.3m.com/uk/ohes)