

Answers To Some Frequently Asked Questions Regarding ANSI/ISEA 107-2015

1. Are there other differences between the ANSI/ISEA 107-2010 and ANSI/ISEA 107-2015 standards? Yes. There are additional differences between the 2010 and 2015 editions of this standard. See the companion document, “Highlights of ANSI/ISEA 107-2015 What’s Changing,” or talk with a 3M Application Engineer for additional information.

2. Do U.S. Federal regulations require the use of high-visibility safety apparel for construction workers working in highway/construction work zones at risk of being struck by traffic? Yes. Section 6D.03 of the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) specifies the kinds of high visibility safety apparel which workers must use when operating on or near public access roadways.

3. Does this edition of the standard replace the 2010 edition? ANSI 107-2015 replaces the ANSI 107-2010 version as the current version of the standard. If and when the Federal Highway Administration issues a letter of interpretation accepting ANSI/ISEA 107-2015 garments as performance equivalent to previous additions, then 2015 garments may be used to comply with the MUTCD requirements as explained in the letter; the letter may be hoped to issue a month or two after the standard is released.

4. What version of ANSI 107 does MUTCD 2009 require? For all workers, including emergency responders, within the right-of-way who are exposed either to traffic or to work vehicles and construction equipment within a Temporary Traffic Control zone, MUTCD 2009 Section 6D.03 requires Class 2 or Class 3 garments of ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 or equivalent revisions, such as ANSI/ISEA 107-2010 or ANSI/ISEA 107-2015 as noted in question 3. Section 6E.02 requires ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Class 2 or 3 for flaggers- FL orange-red or yellow green are required background colors. Section 7D.04 requires ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Class 2 for Adult Crossing Guards¹.

5. Can NFPA 701 be used to claim flame resistance for an ANSI 107-2015 garment? No.

6. I have only found larger-sized garments that meet the standard. I have smaller workers that need appropriately fitting garments to work safely. Is this being addressed? Type R “roadway” Class 2 and Class 3 garments have an allowance for a reduced minimum area requirement, but only for the smallest size garment that is offered in a given design. This should allow for better accommodation of garment sizing for smaller workers.

7. Why were the ANSI/ISEA 107 and ANSI/ISEA 207 standards combined into one document? When standards are updated, the references they contain are also updated. When ANSI/ISEA 107 and 207 were on a staggered revision schedule it created a situation where materials compliant to both were subject to different test methods for the same properties. Similarly, improvements in one standard had to wait for carry over into the other. Bringing the standards into the same document makes them easier and less complicated to implement.

8. What is the new structure of the combined ANSI/ISEA 107 and 207? 107 and 207 were separate because the types of garments they specify have different attributes and requirements among their user groups. A new garment “type structure” for high visibility clothing was implemented to create a

framework that kept them separate by intended application and for specification purposes, but made it easy to determine which garments would meet MUTCD regulatory requirements. Type O “off-road” garments are a new designation for workers operating in environments with vehicle or machinery struck-by hazards, but no exposure to roadways. Type R “roadway” garments are suitable to meet the MUTCD regulatory requirements. Type P “public safety” garments can be used by emergency and incident responders and law enforcement personnel to comply with the MUTCD.

9. If a garment passes Type R requirements does it automatically pass Type O and P? Will it need to be labeled with all designations, i.e., Type O, R, and P? A garment only needs to be marked for the claim the manufacturer is making. Sometimes manufacturers claim compliance to multiple standards or requirements, and can include separate conforming labels as an indication.

10. Has the treatment of accessories changed? Accessories are now more broadly defined to include gloves, hats, bandanas, etc., and may be labeled as ANSI/ISEA 107 compliant. The new requirements give conscientious accessory manufacturers the option of using good quality ANSI/ISEA 107-2015-compliant high visibility materials and labeling as such through self-certification, to better differentiate themselves from look-alike accessories that may appear “high visibility,” but use generic non-compliant materials which may be of lesser quality.

11. Do the high visibility materials on compliant accessories count toward area minimums together with garments if they are worn together? No. The accessory category was expanded to provide safety professionals with more options to help workers be safe and comfortable in high visibility gear, while at the same time being able to demonstrate that their safety program goes “above and beyond” minimum legal requirements, by issuing certified compliant accessories built with high quality materials.

12. Are “biomotion” design concepts integrated into standard requirements? Garments with sleeves or pant legs are required to include high visibility materials in these key areas, because they have been shown in multiple scientific studies to be the most effective placement to enhance conspicuity.

¹ Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices 2009 Edition pages 564-566, 745



Personal Safety Division
3M Center, Building 0235-2W-70
St. Paul, MN 55144-1000
3M.com/PPEsafety

3M.com/Scotchlite

For More Information

Technical Assistance 1-800-243-4630
Hours of Operation: M-Th 8am - 6pm, Fri 8am - 4:30 pm CST
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