



Classed as PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) High Visibility or 'Hi-Vis' is reflective or luminous clothing, accessories or equipment that provides visibility in low light conditions.

High Vis is particularly effective when a light is shining on it, and it reflects with ease. Hi Visibility works from a process called retro reflection. Retro reflection allows light rays to 'bounce back' from their original direction, shining light backwards.

In order to comply with all UK and European legislation, you need to ensure that the high-visibility garments you buy comply with the following: 'High-visibility clothing conforming to EN471:2003/EN20471:2013 which must be worn at all times.'

On the 21st April 2018 the PPE Directive 89/686/EEC was repealed by the new "PPE Regulation (EU 2016/425)":

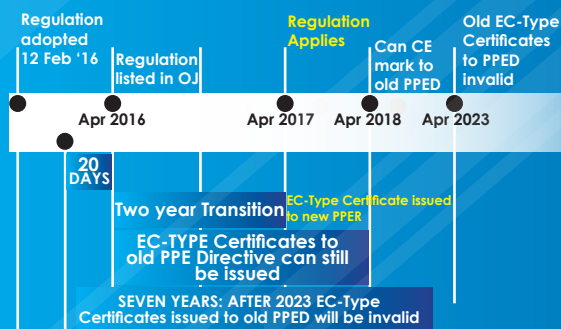
The main changes

- The scope and exclusions are more clearly defined
- It includes significantly increased obligations on Importers and Distributors of PPE and Safety Equipment
- Surveillance Testing of PPE in production will be enhanced to include auditing of Production Control, Product Verification, and Production Quality Assurance where applicable, dependant upon PPE Categories I, II or III.
- PPE Product Categories (I,II and III) are defined, and some product types will change Category from Cat II to Cat III; for example those protecting against Biological Risks, Bullet Wounds and Knife Stabs, Cuts by Hand-Held Chainsaws, High-Pressure Jet Cutting, Risk of Drowning (Life Jackets), and Harmful Noise (Hearing Protectors).
- A suppliers EC Declaration of Conformity (or a web link to it) shall accompany each product.
- New EU Type Examination Certificates will have a maximum validity of 5 years.
- Current EC Type Examination Certificates are required to be renewed by 21st April 2023.
- All PPE Products will need to meet the latest versions of their relevant Standard.

Obligations on "Economic Operators"

- The Regulation (EU) 2016/425 uses a new term "Economic Operators" which defines as anyone "intervening in the supply and distribution chain of PPE Products": so it includes manufacturers, authorised representatives, importers and distributors (including on-line vendors for the first time), as well as requiring them to take appropriate actions to ensure that their PPE products are fully in conformity with the Standard claimed.
- There will be new obligations upon manufacturers, importers and distributors to hold copies of PPE Technical Files, Product Type Examination Certificates, and Declarations of Conformity, and keep records of these documents for at least 10 years. They should also ensure User Instructions are provided with each product and in the correct language, ensure the transport and storage do not harm the PPE's efficacy or conformity, and indicate on the PPE their Product Code or I.D and postal address where they may be contacted.

The Timeline



NOTE that Distributors and importers who place PPE on the market under their own Name or Brand take on ALL the obligations of the manufacturer.

The Conclusion

We are fully cognisant of our responsibilities and obligations to you in respect of the new PPE Regulation (EN) 2016/425 and - working closely with the BSIF in ensuring that we will be fully compliant at every stage of its implementation on your behalf - we will always be ahead of the game in keeping you, our customers, safe at work.



Highways Agency: Chapter 8 Traffic Signs Manual (Part 2) - Operations: Para 06.3.2

The workforce and supervisory staff should wear high-visibility warning clothing at ALL TIMES when on site. Clothing shall comply with EN471:2003/EN20471:2013 Class 2 or 3 (Class 3 on motorways and other high-speed roads) and shall comply with the requirements of paragraph 4.2.3(b) of the standard. The colour of the clothing shall normally be fluorescent yellow or fluorescent orange-red complying with Table 2 of the Standard.

The retro-reflective material shall be to Class 2 as defined in Table 5 of the standard. In addition, on motorways and other high-speed roads, high-visibility jackets or coveralls shall have full length sleeves meeting the requirement of paragraph 4.2.4 of EN471:2003/EN20471:2013. This requirement may be varied to three-quarter-length sleeves where a risk assessment shows full-length sleeves would present increased risk due to the activity being undertaken.

Staff should also wear high-visibility trousers complying with Class 1 of EN471:2003/EN20471:2013 where the carrying of large items of equipment or other activities may at any time obscure the visibility of the high visibility jacket or vest.

Highways Agency: Temporary Traffic Management On High-Speed Roads: Good Working Practice (Section W7) Operatives who are engaged in activities on live traffic lanes should wear High-Visibility Garments to EN471:2003/EN20471:2013 Class 3.

The Safety Standards Guide

Garment Classifications

Garment types are grouped into three classes based on the conspicuity provided, with the classes dictating the minimum quantities of background and retro-reflective materials to be used.

CLASS 3: Highest Protection Level:

Bands of retro-reflective material shall not be less than 50mm wide. Minimum background material 0.80m². Minimum retro-reflective material 0.20m². Horizontal reflective bands can now have an incline of +20°. EN20471 was introduced in 2013 which clarifies and increases the performance levels of the original Standard and applies to "New Model" garments launched since October 2013.

CLASS 2: Intermediate Protection Level:

Bands of retro-reflective material shall not be less than 50mm wide. Minimum background material 0.50m². Minimum retro-reflective material 0.13m².

CLASS 1: Lowest Protection Level:

Where enhanced visibility is an advantage, but for minimal risk/off road purposes only. Bands of retro-reflective material shall not be less than 50mm wide. Minimum background material 0.14m². Minimum retro-reflective material 0.10m².

All Retroreflective Materials used in our High-Visibility Clothing exceed the highest brightness category of EN471:2003/EN20471:2013. Retroreflective material greatly enhance your visibility in low light situation. This reflective material returns light to a light source - such as vehicle headlights - creating a bright image that motorists are more likely to see for a distance. As a result, this gives pedestrians more time to react, see below illustration.

RETROREFLECTIVE



EN471:2003/EN20471:2013 Hi-Vis Warning Clothing



3 classes of protection (noted above).

EN 471:

EN343 Protection Against Rain



Waterproofness and breathability

EN 343:

EN342 Protection Against Cold



Protection for temperatures below 5°C

EN 342:

RIS-3279-TOM - Approved Garments for Railways



Go/rt 3279 has been replaced by rail industry standard RIS-3279-TOM, Hi-Vis clothing, which reproduces the content of GO/RT in its entirety as Annex "A" of that document.