

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

Below is a list of terms and acronyms that are commonly used when referring to PPE.

Note that some specifications described in the following content may not be the same as the specifications followed by your agency. Always check with your State agency's standards and specifications when using these guidelines.

Glossary

❑ **ANSI**—The American National Standards Institute oversees the creation, announcement, and use of thousands of standards and guidelines. Its mission is to promote and facilitate safety.

❑ **Class 1 visibility garments**—Class 1 visibility garments are NOT approved for use by highway workers.

Class 1 garments require the least amounts of background and reflective materials, which is why they are used in low-risk environments, such as parking garages or warehouses. Class 1 garments cannot be worn when working with or near roadway traffic or equipment moving in excess of 25 mph. Typical styles of Class 1 garments are vests and T-shirts.

❑ **Class 2 visibility garments**—Class 2 is the most commonly used performance class of safety apparel. Class 2 is the minimum requirement for personnel working with or near roadway traffic during daytime operations because it requires more visibility coverage than Class 1. Class 2 garments come in styles such as vests, t-shirts and jackets.

❑ **Class 3 visibility garments**—Class 3 coverage is useful for working in or around roadway traffic, nighttime, and poor weather conditions. This performance class requires the greatest amount of background and reflective materials. The high percentage of coverage required for Class 3 sometimes means that both tops and bottoms are needed to meet that requirement.

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- ❑ **Class E visibility garments**—Class E bottoms are often used to boost coverage to Class 3 status when wearing a Class 2 top. They are required for work zones in and around roadway traffic at night, in inclement weather, and in other severe conditions. Class E garments are bottoms, including pants, shorts, overalls, and rain suits.
- ❑ **Combined performance material**—Combined performance material contains both fluorescent and retroreflective materials.
- ❑ **FHWA**—The Federal Highway Administration is an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).
- ❑ **Fluorescent materials**—The background material on safety apparel is fluorescent because the sun’s ultraviolet rays react with the fluorescent colors to make them appear to glow. Fluorescent material glows in the daytime, but the effect is even stronger in poor light conditions such as in fog or at dusk. The glow quality helps promote visibility.
- ❑ **OSHA**—Occupational Safety and Health Administration is a Federal agency dedicated to the prevention of injuries, illnesses, and deaths on the job.
- ❑ **Retroreflective material**—Retroreflective material reflects most of the light striking it directly back toward the source, as opposed to diffusing it. This means light is reflected in all directions.
- ❑ **Shall**—The term “shall” indicates mandatory provisions.