Are you ready for enforcement of ANSI/ISEA 107-1999 standards? Do you even know what it is? This simple worker traffic safety standard may result in OSHA fines or even liability and non-compliance injury lawsuits for the unprepared. Yet, it's really very easy to avoid.

The ANSI 107-1999 standard began as a practical method of assuring worker safety in exposure to moving traffic. A good ethical cause, with the best of intentions. Yet, everywhere, knowledgeable business owners are grumbling under their breath—“the standard doesn’t apply to my business”. Many businesses will be taken by surprise, especially when they learn that OSHA now references the standard during audits, and has given out fines as high as $7000 for non-compliance. At $20 to $40 per vest, the cost of compliance is a bargain. Under the new standard, everybody exposed to vehicle traffic (including forklifts, trucks, tractors, and even lawn equipment,) will need to comply.

Be Sure It Says "ANSI"

The good news is that there's not much to know. Make sure the garments are labeled "ANSI/ISEA". Choosing the best, cost-effective traffic safety garments has just gotten a whole lot easier. Gone will be the confusion of which Hi-Visibility safety vests to outfit your crew. Everybody exposed to vehicle traffic will either wear ANSI CLASS I, CLASS II or CLASS III.

The bad news is that you ABSOLUTELY MUST understand these CLASSES. Here's what you have to know:

CON-SPI-KU-WHAT?

There are three levels of CONSPICUITY (or visibility) in the standard. These levels are in ascending order CLASS I, CLASS II & CLASS III.
In simple, practical terms - **Class I** garments are light weight vests intended for exposure to slow moving traffic - less than 25 mph. Parking lot workers, delivery personnel and warehouse personnel are examples.

**Class II** garments are intended for exposure to medium traffic speeds, typically under 50 mph. This should enable the worker to be seen in reduced visibility. The worker should be able to accomplish his work without paying excessive attention to traffic.

**Class III** garments meet the most stringent requirements. You need these when workers are exposed to traffic exceeding 50 mph. The worker should be able to be intensely concentrating on their work, and be visible at 1280 feet. They should distinctly look like a person at this distance, rather than an inanimate object. Emergency Response Personnel, Utility Workers and Road Crews really do need this level of protection.

Vinatronics offers a distinct ANSI Compliant product line. The vest diagrams show the obvious visible differences. The total surface area of reflective tape and fabric varies depending on specifying CLASS I, II or III.

**Why Would I Want An "ANSI STYLE" Instead of an "ANSI APPROVED" Garment?**

The ANSI standard emphasizes tested fabric as well as tested reflective tape. **ANSI-Approved** garments are used where traffic is the primary hazard. Highway workers would be the obvious example. **ANSI-Style** products are used where other hazards are primary and traffic is a secondary hazard. Electricians need fire resistant fabric as the primary hazard (electrocution) with approved reflective for the secondary hazard (traffic). These products use bright but non-tested Orange Fire resistant cottons with compliant tested 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material. Other ANSI-style products are for Winter Conditions, Rain Conditions, and Electrical/Fire Conditions. The selection of a correct class of garment for your working conditions rests with you, the user, and is imperative to maximize worker safety and minimize risk.

Working with raw material suppliers, Vinatronics creates visibility apparel designed to meet or exceed the performance needed by working men and women. To select the appropriate products for your work environment, allow us to E-Mail you a complete Vinatronics catalog. **Call us at 1-800-525-SAFE or email us at vinatronics@safetyandsupply.com to receive a free electronic E-Mail Catalog by email.**

**What does ANSI/ISEA Really Mean?**

On June 1, 1999 the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) approved the high visibility safety apparel standards recommendations as presented by the International Safety Equipment Standards Association (ISEA). These standards are now commonly referred to as ANSI/ISEA 107-1999.

Prior to the ANSI/ISEA 107-1999 standards, most Local Industries and Local Government agencies established their own guidelines for high visibility apparel based on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The new ANSI/ISEA standards established USA national minimum standards for background fabric and reflective tape requirements for Class I, II, and III garments. Some current Local high visibility standards may already exceed the minimum standards as defined in ANSI/ISEA 107-1999. Most will need to upgrade their high visibility apparel standards to comply with the new minimum 107-1999 standard.
Avoid Costly ANSI Visibility Compliance Mistakes  (continued)

Straight from the ANSI/ISEA Manual:
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CONSPICUITY CLASS 1
- Permit full and undivided attention to approaching traffic
- Provide ample separation of the pedestrian worker from conflicting vehicle traffic
- Permit optimum conspicuity in backgrounds that are not complex; and where vehicle and moving equipment speeds not exceeding 25 mph

Examples of Workers Who Could Work in This Class May Include:
- Those workers directing vehicle operators to parking/service locations
- Workers retrieving shopping carts from parking areas
- Those exposed to the hazards of warehouse equipment traffic
- Roadside “right of way” or sidewalk maintenance workers and delivery drivers

CONSPICUITY CLASS 2
- Greater visibility is desired during inclement weather conditions
- Complex backgrounds are present
- Employees are performing tasks which divert attention from approaching vehicle traffic
- Vehicle or moving equipment speeds exceed 25 mph; or
- Work activities take place in or in near proximity to vehicle traffic

Examples of workers in this class may included
- Roadway construction workers
- High volume parking or toll gate personal
- Utility workers
- Airport baggage handlers/ground crew
- Survey crews
- Emergency response personal
- Railway workers
- Law enforcement personal
- School crossing guards
- Accident site investigators

CONSPICUITY CLASS 3
- Workers are exposed to traffic exceeding 50 mph
- The pedestrian worker and vehicle operator have high task loads clearly putting the pedestrian at risk
- The wearer must be conspicuous through the full range of body motions
- At a minimum of 390 meters (1280 feet) and must be identifiable as a person.

Examples of Workers Who Could Work in This Class May Include:
- Roadway construction personal
- Utility workers
- Survey crews
- Emergency response personal.

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