

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive A-86

Issued May 30, 1980

Revised June 1, 2000

SUBJECT: High Visibility Garments

AFFECTED CODES/

DIRECTIVES: OAR 437-03-1926.651(d)

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for OR-OSHA compliance personnel when applying 1926.651(d) and 1926.201(4), Exposure to Vehicular Traffic at Excavation, Trenching, Shoring Operations and when flagging.

BACKGROUND: A. **Question:** Does the wearing of a yellow rain jacket meet the intent of 1926.651(d) when employees are exposed to vehicular traffic?

Answer: The rule requires that employees exposed to vehicular traffic shall be provided with and shall wear warning vests or other suitable garments marked with or made of reflectorized or high-visibility material.

High-visibility bright orange or bright yellow rain jackets or rain gear would meet the intent of this rule.

The determination of whether the rain gear material is high visibility must be made by the employer. However, the rain gear color must be such that it causes the person to stand out from the surrounding background colors.

B. **Question:** Does the wearing of suspenders and rain pants, of an acceptable color, meet the intent of 1926.651(d) when employees are exposed to vehicular traffic?

Answer: NO. The upper part of the body must be covered by the highly visible materials.

C. **Question:** Can a person wear a bright orange tee-shirt and meet the intent of 1926.651(d)?

Answer: Yes, the use of bright orange or other highly visible colored tee-shirts would be acceptable. The type of garment worn is not as important as the visibility of the garment to approaching traffic to distinguish the wearer from the surrounding background, under all environmental conditions.

Tee-shirts, rain gear and other warning garments to remain highly visible must not be soiled, faded, or torn so as to reduce their effectiveness.

In the evening hours (sundown and after), garments made of or marked with reflective material must be worn.

D. **Question:** Does the wearing of an acceptable orange tee-shirt or acceptable rain gear preclude the use of a safety vest.

Answer: Yes, except for flaggers. The type of garment worn is not as important as the ability of the approaching traffic to distinguish the wearer of protective garments from the surrounding background.

A flag person needs to stand out from the surrounding colors and be highly visible. 1926.201 requires flaggers to wear only red or orange warning garments while flagging. A flag person must wear either a red or orange safety vest or jacket.

Tee-shirts for flaggers would not make them stand out, therefore, they need to wear a safety vest or jacket.

ACTION:

The compliance officer, in judging the visibility of any garment, shall base their decision on the garment's ability to stand out from the surrounding background colors so as to make the person highly visible to vehicular traffic.

**EFFECTIVE
DATE:**

This program directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.