

CAN/CSA Z96-02 High Visibility Safety Standard Summary

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) exists to produce standards that help to protect Canadians from hazards in almost every aspect of daily living. Recently, a new standard for a personal protective clothing requirement was developed by CSA, with the support of many Canadian employer/labour users, producers, special interest groups, and regulators. The CAN/CSA Z96-02 addresses high visibility safety apparel, an area where consistency in Canadian Regulations and standards was necessary. CAN/CSA Z96-02 High Visibility Safety Apparel Garment Standard, lists three classes of high visibility clothing and three levels of retro-reflective trim to improve conspicuity under all light conditions. Compliance with the standard will be mandatory where specified by government authorities. The result is enhanced worker safety.

Class 1 - Apparel consists of a basic harness or stripes/bands over the shoulder(s) and encircling the waist. The center portion of the front torso band between the two vertical bands is optional.

Class 2 - Apparel has full coverage of the upper torso (front, back, sides and over the shoulders). Stripes/bands shall be composed of retro-reflective or combined performance materials.

Class 3 - Apparel meets the same requirements as Class 2 with the addition of bands encircling both arms and both legs. These bands shall be composed of combined performance stripes/bands or a combination of retro-reflective and background material.