



Oregon

John Kitzhaber MD, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)

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December 13, 2000

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Whit Patrick, Manager
Safety Operations
Central Lincoln People's Utility District P.O. Box 1126
Newport, OR 97365

Dear Mr. Patrick:

Thank you for contacting the OR-OSHA Standards and Technical section regarding clarification of the new rule for high visibility safety garments. You mention in your letter that your greatest hazard is from the motoring public. That's the reason this rule came into existence. In your letter you've asked us to define what parts of the traveled roadway this standard will apply to.

- What, if any area outside of the obvious roadway would be included in the intent of the rule?
- How do we identify "street/highway traffic" areas along unpaved or unmarked rural roads?
- Is there a measurement that should be used from the center of the traveled road to identify the area in which this rule is applicable?

The new standard says that "employees exposed to hazards caused by on-highway type moving vehicles in construction zones and street/highway traffic must wear highly visible upper body garments." That means, if your crew is exposed to on-highway type moving vehicles they need to wear highly visible upper body garments. Because this is a performance based standard we cannot define each circumstance you may encounter that will require compliance with the standard. The need to wear highly visible garments will not be determined by the relative position of your work vehicles to the roadway, rather by exposure of your employees to on-highway type moving vehicles. For further information contact our technical section at 378-3272. You are also invited to see the OR-OSHA pages on the Internet at www.orosha.org.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster, Policy Manager
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division