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High Visibility Clothing: Railway Group Standard GO/RT3279

The above standards sets out the requirements for high visibility clothing which is an essential item of personal protective equipment providing drivers of rail movements with a **conspicuous warning of the presence of people** within view on the line side or on or near the line.

Similar benefits are afforded to those managing the safety of workgroups by improving visibility of people when needing to account for them having moved to a place of safety.

The standard (BS EN ISO2047/2013) determines the requirements for the **colour and luminance of background material** to which our high visibility must conform and to maintain conformance with the standard **cleanliness is of vital importance**.

Personal Protective Equipment and Work Wear: Network Rail Company Standard: NR/L2/OHS/021

Standard (NR/L2/OHS/021) defines the minimum requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) and work wear to be worn when working on Network Rail Managed Infrastructure (NRMI).

When accessing NRMI the following standards shall apply to specific PPE and work wear:

- BS EN 343: 2003:** Protective clothing – protection against rain
- BS EN 397: 1995:** Specification for industrial safety helmets
- BS EN 471: 2003:** Specification for high visibility warning clothes
- BS EN ISO 20345:** 2004 Safety Footwear

Network Rail Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy

This policy covers the wearing of general PPE (basic head protection, foot protection and high visibility clothing) when on or near the line and on the line side.

It does not apply to other locations such as within buildings, vehicle cabs, etc. It does not cover the wearing of task-specific PPE, such as protection when cutting, welding, etc. These requirements will be specified in task-specific safe methods of work.

The basic requirements for PPE are as follows:

When using authorised walking routes on or near the line or on the line side:

High visibility upper body clothing with reflective tape to comply with BS EN 471 class 1 and Railway Group Standard GO/RT3279

- a mini-vest meets this requirement
- PPE to a higher standard may also be worn

Anywhere else on or near the line or on the line side:

A minimum of:

High visibility orange upper body clothing with reflective tape to comply with BS EN 471 class 2 and Railway Group Standard GO/RT3279. The outer layer of the upper body high visibility clothing must be clearly marked on the back with the individual's Sentinel sponsor's name or logo or agreed with Network Rail.

This is a higher standard than for a mini-vest and mini-vests are not suitable for this purpose. Full-length waistcoats, long sleeved jackets or similar garments that comply with the standards are suitable.

- Sentinel sponsors should supply garments marked with their name or logo
- The only other names or logos that will be agreed by Network Rail are those which refer to a particular project or contract
- The use of a project or contract logo will be at the discretion of the Network Rail project or contract manager
- The name or logo must be printed between the vertical reflective bands on the rear of the garment and may be in colour and/ or incorporated in a reflective panel
- The use of additional high visibility clothing such as trousers or over-trousers which comply with BS EN 471 and GO/RT3279 is recommended but is not mandatory

Safety helmet that complies with BS EN 397

- 'bump caps' to BS EN 812 **do not** meet this requirement
- Chin straps should be provided where there is a risk of helmets falling off

Safety footwear that complies with BS EN ISO 20345 and provides support to the ankle and has a covered steel toe cap and mid-sole protection

- Rigger boots do not meet the requirement for ankle protection and must not be used

There are other items of PPE that are now required for works on rail infrastructure such as:

- Safety Eye Wear to European Standard EN166 (and varying specifications dictated by risk assessment)
- Long Sleeved hi-visibility work wear
- Hearing Protection (to specification dictated by risk assessment for the activity)
- Face Masks (to specification dictated by risk assessment for the activity)
- Head Lamps (to specification dictated by risk assessment for the activity)
- Gloves (to specification dictated by risk assessment for the activity)

Exemptions

(The following exemptions apply to the Network Rail Policy)

Person, group or activity	Exemption
Male member of the Sikh religion	Safety helmet providing that a turban is worn
Any person working in water, mud or snow	Footwear with ankle support, provided Wellington boots with steel toe-caps and mid-sole protection are worn
Driving or operating machines from within a covered cab	Safety helmet
Signallers issuing and receiving tokens, etc.	Safety helmet and footwear
Crossing keeper manually operating a level crossing	Safety helmet and footwear
Telecoms, signals or E&P employees performing close work within switch-gear, panels or enclosures	Safety helmet whilst undertaking the actual close work
Welders or others undertaking hot work	Safety footwear with ankle support provided that welders boots with steel toe-caps and mid-sole protection are worn
Rail Incident Officers when acting as RIO at an incident	High visibility upper body clothing to this requirement, provided that a RIO high visibility vest to GO/RT3279 is worn
Qualified First Aid at Work staff acting as First Aider	High visibility upper body clothing to this requirement, provided that a First Aider high visibility vest as specified by Network Rail is worn
Network Rail Maintenance employees undertaking patrolling, inspection or ultrasonic testing on foot, but not whilst undertaking any work arising from these activities	<p>Safety helmet, providing that it is carried at all times and worn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when standing clear of passing trains • when passing through any other site of work or worksite
Any person walking to or from a site of work	<p>Safety helmet, providing that it is carried at all times and worn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when standing clear of passing trains • when passing through any worksite or site of work

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Regulations 1992 (as amended).

The legal stance on PPE is as follows:

The employer must assess the need to provide PPE. PPE should be provided only when other control measures have been examined and either implemented or dismissed as not being reasonably practicable.

It is the responsibility of the employer to provide PPE and the employer should not charge the employee for the PPE received.

The PPE will only be deemed to be suitable if:

- it is appropriate for the risks involved;
- it takes into account the ergonomic requirements and the state of health of the wearer;
- it can be fitted properly by the wearer;
- it is effective as a means of controlling risk

If the PPE is to be worn with other items of PPE then all items must be compatible to the task.

Every employee must:

- use PPE in accordance with training and instructions
- return all PPE equipment to the appropriate accommodation
- report any defects or loss in the equipment to the employer

Auctus Management Group issue PPE based on risk assessment specific to the work activity being undertaken and expect the operative issued with PPE to wear such PPE as it is intended which includes fastening jackets vests to avoid garments becoming astray.

At no time shall 'Hoodies' be worn while engaged in activities on Network Rail Managed Infrastructure

SAFETY HELMET
PROTECTION FROM FALLING OR FLYING OBJECTS

HEAD TORCH
ENSURING HIGH VISIBILITY IN LOW LIGHT CONDITIONS

HEARING PROTECTION
PROTECTION FROM LOUD AND EAR DAMAGING NOISE

EYE PROTECTION
PROTECTION FROM PARTICLES, FLYING OBJECTS, AND DUST

DUST MASK
PROTECTION FROM DUSTS ENCOUNTERED DURING CONSTRUCTION

HIGH VIS POLO SHIRT
HIGH VISIBILITY T-SHIRT FOR USE IN NORMAL WEATHER CONDITIONS

PROTECTIVE GLOVES
APPROPRIATE HAND PROTECTION FOR THE TASKS BEING UNDERTAKEN

HIGH VIS JACKET
HIGH VISIBILITY CLOTHING FOR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

HIGH VIS VEST
HIGH VISIBILITY VEST FOR USE IN NORMAL WEATHER CONDITIONS

HIGH VIS TROUSERS
HIGH VISIBILITY CLOTHING FOR ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS

FOOT PROTECTION
PROVIDES SUPPORT TO THE ANKLE, INCLUDES MID-SOLE PROTECTION AND HAS A PROTECTIVE TOE CAP

