



Safety Vest Classifications

Did you know that safety vests are divided into both Types and Classes?

It's customary to see the Class designation on safety vests, but Type designations can also be found on these products.

Type O - Class 1 - Off-Road

Class 1 provides the minimum amount of high-visibility materials required to differentiate the wearer visually from non-complex work environments where struck-by hazards will not be approaching at roadway speeds. Class 1 vests are for workers whose job puts them at the lowest risk level. These would be jobs in areas where work is taking place at a safe distance from a roadway:

- Warehouse Workers
- Mining
- PetroChem

Type R - Class 2 & Class 3 - Roadway and Temporary Traffic Control

Class 2 provides for the use of additional amounts of high-visibility materials, which may allow design opportunities to define the human form more effectively. They are intended for working environments that pose a greater risk:

- Roadway Construction Worker
- Municipalities
- Airline Ramp Personnel

Class 3 can offer greater visibility to the wearer in both complex backgrounds and through a full range of body movements by mandatory placement of background, retroreflective, and combined-performance materials on sleeves and pant legs (if present). Regardless of the area of materials used, a sleeveless garment or vest alone shall not be considered Performance Class 3.

Class 3 vests are reserved for people working in the most dangerous environments where visibility is the highest priority. This can also apply to emergency personnel or tow truck operators working in blizzard or hurricane conditions where visibility is at a minimum:

- Flaggers
- Dept. of Transportation
- Nighttime Work
- Municipalities

Type P - Class 2 & Class 3 - Public Safety

Type P provides daytime and nighttime visual conspicuity enhancement for emergency and incident responders and law enforcement personnel in occupational environments which include exposure to traffic (vehicles using the highway for purposes of travel) from public access highway right-of-ways, or roadway temporary traffic control (TTC) zones, or from work vehicles and construction equipment within a roadway temporary traffic control (TTC) zone or from equipment and vehicles within the activity area.

- Police
- Fire
- EMS
- Sheriff

Also remind your customers to consider their working environment and background when deciding between an orange or lime safety vest.