



CSA HIGH VISIBILITY SAFETY STANDARDS

The Canadian Standards Association's CSA Z96-09 High Visibility Safety Standard details the level of performance of garment componentry and design required to meet the standard classes and levels. The standard requires garment componentry to pass stringent testing including retroreflective performance, chromacity, luminance, colour fastness, resistance to shrinkage, bursting strength, tear strength, and water resistance (if applicable). Garment design elements and layout of retroreflective or combined-performance tape is another key part of the comprehensive standard. For more details, a copy of the standard can be obtained at www.csa.ca.

A simplified explanation of the CSA classes and levels for safety garments is as follows:

CLASS 1

Basic harness or safety tape over the shoulders and encircling the waist. Suitable in less complex work areas where workers are separated from car and truck traffic.

Example: Class 1 Level 2 = Class 1 tape configuration + non-retroreflective background material

Pioneer model #5590 (V1040560), hi-viz yellow/green safety sash

Pioneer model #6925BK (V1060471), black polyester fleece hoodie

CLASS 2

Full coverage of the upper torso including front, back, sides and over the shoulders. The background material must be high visibility. For use in more complex or low-light work areas requiring greater visibility.

Example Class 2 Level 2 = Class 2 tape configuration + retroreflective background material

Pioneer model #6935 (V1021150), hi-viz orange safety vest

Pioneer model #6925 (V1060460), hi-viz yellow/green polyester fleece hoodie

CLASS 3

A Class 2 garment combined with arm and leg bands. The background material must be high visibility to the standard. Hi-viz coveralls meet this standard; safety jackets and pants can be worn combined, or arm/leg bands can be added to Class 2 garments, to attain Class 3. Suitable for use in complex work areas where low light, fast-moving traffic and inclement weather are safety factors.

Example: Class 3 Level 2 = Class 3 configuration + retroreflective background material

Pioneer model #5999A (V1070161), hi-viz yellow/green traffic coverall

Pioneer model #6001J (V1070250), hi-viz orange traffic safety jacket

Pioneer model #6003P (V1070380), navy traffic safety pant

Safety officials in your region determine the appropriate class wear for specific job sites. Hazardous risk assessment should be performed by a qualified individual to determine the applicable high visibility classification.