

# EN ISO 20471 – High Visibility Clothing

One of the most common protective standards around today is EN ISO 20471. It is the standard which deals with all high visibility clothing.

For a garment to pass as high visibility there **MUST** be the correct amount of retro-reflective tape alongside the correct amount of high visibility background fabric.

Just because a garment may use the background fabric without tape does not make the garment high visibility, and neither does a garment using the correct tape but incorrect background fabric make it high visibility.

The only 3 colours of background fabric are:



A garment using one of the 3 above colours (they must still pass a colour test) that also uses the correct tape must do so with certain amounts of both fabric and retro reflective tape to achieve a classification level 1-3. The amounts are:

Classification level		Minimum background fabric	Minimum Retro-reflective tape	Min thickness of tape
Class 3	Highest protection	0.80m <sup>2</sup>	0.20m <sup>2</sup>	50mm
Class 2	Intermediate protection	0.50m <sup>2</sup>	0.13m <sup>2</sup>	50mm
Class 1	Lowest Protection	0.14m <sup>2</sup>	0.10m <sup>2</sup>	50mm

One of the most important rules with high visibility is **DO NOT ALTER THE GARMENT**.

Once a garment is altered, such as, shortening sleeves/legs, cutting away tape, it may no longer conform to the classification it was given or it may not even conform to the EN ISO 20471 standard anymore.

Make sure that garments are washed regularly and to the correct washing instructions otherwise it may no longer conform to the standard. If a garment is permanently soiled then dispose of it in a safe and responsible manner.