

ISEA Releases Updated High-Visibility Safety Apparel Standard

The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) has published ANSI/ISEA 107-2026, the latest edition of the American National Standard for High-Visibility Safety Apparel.

The first revision since 2020 introduces updates to garment sizing, retroreflective material design, performance testing, and manufacturer documentation. The revised standard establishes requirements for high-visibility safety apparel used in roadway, non-roadway, and public safety environments.

The following summarizes the major changes and what the new edition means for manufacturers, distributors, and employers.

Questions About ANSI/ISEA 107-2026?

For questions about the new standard, garment specifications, or product documentation, contact your Kishigo sales representative or authorized distributor. You can also reach Kishigo at info@kishigo.com or (800) 338-9480.



What Does This Mean for Existing High-Visibility Apparel?

The release of ANSI/ISEA 107-2026 does not automatically make garments manufactured to previous editions obsolete.

Existing ANSI/ISEA 107-2020 apparel may continue to be used or sold where it meets applicable requirements. The need to transition to garments meeting the 2026 edition depends on regulatory requirements, agency specifications, customer contracts, and employer policies.

For example, the Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) establishes high-visibility apparel requirements for workers in temporary traffic control zones. Those requirements must be considered separately from the publication of a new ANSI edition.

Kishigo distributors and customers should review their specifications before determining whether changes to existing inventory or future orders are necessary.

What's New in ANSI/ISEA 107-2026?

According to ISEA's official standard announcement, the 2026 revision includes the following updates.

Sizing Allowances for Smaller Garments

The new standard clarifies when reduced fluorescent background-material requirements may be applied to smaller Type R garments, including sizes up to Medium.

Previous requirements presented challenges for smaller garments because they have less surface area available to accommodate the required amounts of high-visibility material.

The revised provisions establish clearer criteria for manufacturers designing smaller garments while maintaining the applicable performance-class requirements.



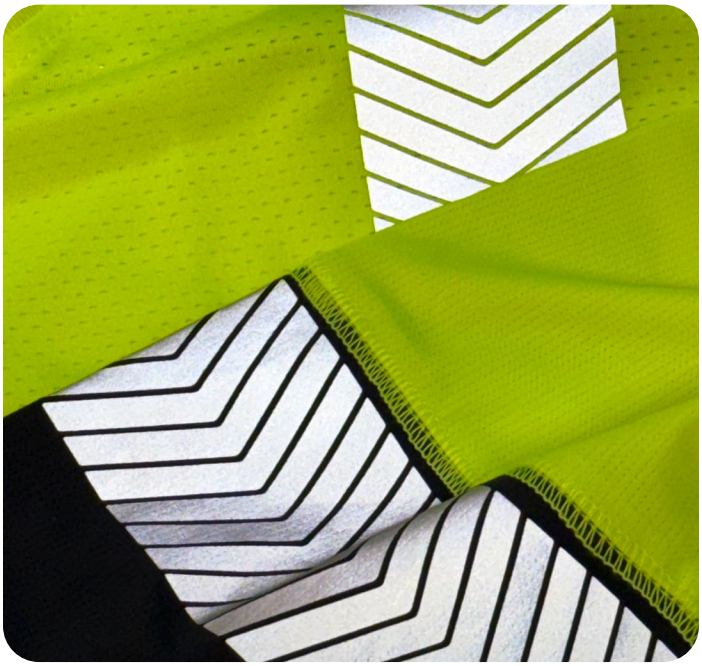
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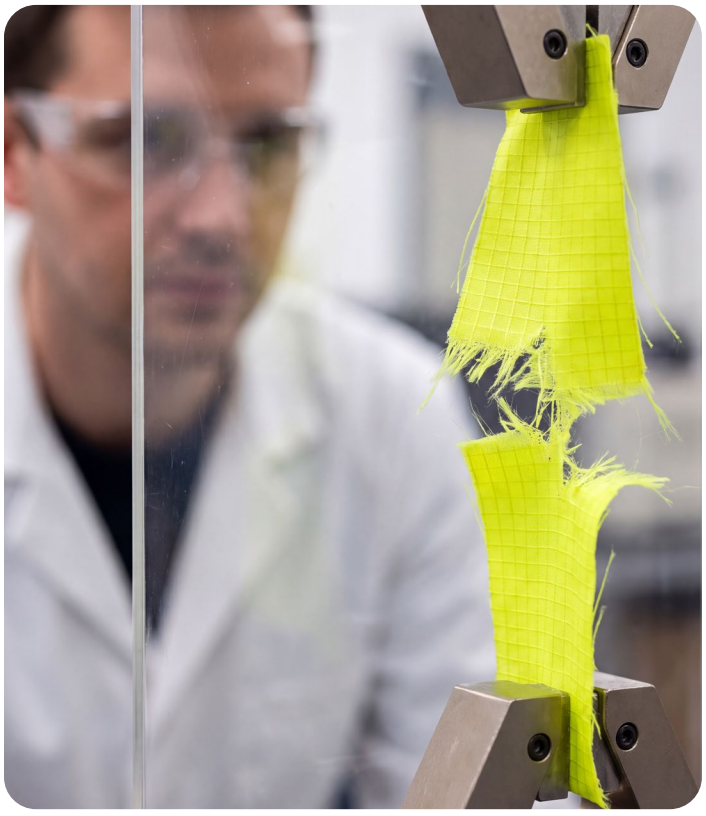
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Retroreflective Material Design and Testing

ANSI/ISEA 107-2026 provides updated requirements for non-continuous reflective bands and additional parameters for split-trim designs. These updates help clarify how segmented, split-trim and other non-continuous configurations are evaluated against the standard's design and performance requirements.

The updated standard also references current test methods used to evaluate retroreflective performance, helping ensure these newer garment designs are assessed consistently while allowing manufacturers greater flexibility in garment construction and design.





Updated Material Performance Testing

The 2026 edition updates several testing methods used to evaluate high-visibility apparel materials, including:

- **Colorfastness:** Material color retention under specified test conditions.
- **Dimensional change:** Shrinkage or other changes in material dimensions.
- **Tear resistance:** Material resistance to tearing.
- **Laundering performance:** Material performance following specified cleaning procedures.
- **Retroreflective performance:** The ability of reflective materials to return light to its source.

These updates align the standard with current AATCC, ASTM and ISO test methods. While the underlying performance thresholds remain largely unchanged, products will now be evaluated using updated testing procedures.

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Declaration of Conformity Requirements

ANSI/ISEA 107-2026 strengthens the documentation requirements associated with garment conformity. Manufacturers must make a Declaration of Conformity available upon request for each garment style or model offered for sale.

The declaration documents the manufacturer's claim that the identified garment meets the applicable requirements. Declarations of Conformity were also required under previous editions, but the 2026 revision reinforces their availability for individual styles and models.

Distributors and buyers can request this documentation when verifying a garment's compliance with the specified edition.





Optional Testing for Overall Nighttime Visibility

ANSI/ISEA 107-2026 includes updated provisions for optional testing of overall nighttime garment visibility.

The 2020 edition introduced optional testing under ASTM E1501 to assess a garment's overall nighttime luminance. The 2026 revision continues to develop this approach to evaluating the retroreflective performance of a finished garment.

This testing remains optional and does not replace the standard's mandatory material and garment performance requirements.

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