

## Federally Mandated Worker Visibility Regulation Summary

The Federal Highway Administration has enacted a worker visibility regulation (Part 634; Title 23; Code of Federal Regulations) to decrease the likelihood of worker fatalities or injuries from motor vehicles while working within a right-of-way on Federal-aid-highways. This rule, issued on November 18, 2006, will become mandatory November 24, 2008. The compliance period is to provide agencies, incident responders, and contractor's sufficient time to purchase garments that comply with the new standards.

The new regulation requires the wearing of high-visibility ANSI Class 2 or Class 3 safety garments by workers performing tasks within the right-of-way on Federal-aid-highways. A worker is defined as those people on foot whose duties place them within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway, such as highway construction and maintenance forces, survey crews, utility crews, responders to incidents, and law enforcement personnel when

directing traffic, investigating crashes, and handling lane closures, obstructed roadways, and disasters. Adopt-A-Highway workers, mowing crews, gardeners, etc. all will have to wear the high-visibility clothing to be in compliance with the new rule. The only exception will be law enforcement personnel during manhunts, traffic stops and searches.

A Federal grant is available to help agencies purchase the required safety clothing; it is the State and Community Highway Safety Grant Program, Section 402, Chapter 4 of Title 23.

For details see: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.c5f2b2d02df83a9d304a4-c4446108a0c/>

For Part 634; Title 23; Code of Federal Regulations see: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a061124c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a061124c.html)

For examples of safety apparel: <http://secure.cartsvr.net/catalogs/index.asp?catid=21054&fileID=14114>

## Tips for Safe Backing



- Park & back defensively.
- When in doubt-don't back up.
- Park the vehicle so backing up is unnecessary.
- While backing, remember, there is always a blind spot.
- Every backing situation is different
- Plan backing to the minimum distance possible.
- When possible, back toward the driver's side.
- Before backing, get out of the vehicle and look. Back immediately after checking.
- Check for all types of obstacles - including overhead.
- When there is no back-up alarm, sound the horn before backing, and periodically while backing.
- Continually check mirrors on both sides.
- Use a spotter.
- Eliminate background noise and distractions (open windows, irrelevant conversations, turn down: radios, CB's, stereos, etc...).
- Back slowly in the lowest gear possible.
- When parallel parking, leave enough room so as not to have to back up when exiting.

Source:  
Amsler, Dewey, AFM Engineering