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FHWA ACCEPTS REVISED ANSI/ISEA 107 STANDARD FOR HIGH-VIZ SAFETY APPAREL IN WORKZONES

ARLINGTON, Va. (May 20, 2010) – High visibility safety garments that conform to the ANSI/ISEA 107-2010 standard will be in compliance with the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced today.

The 2009 MUTCD requires that highway workers, flaggers and adult crossing guards wear high visibility apparel that meets Performance Class 2 or 3 of ANSI/ISEA 107-2004, the *American National Standard for High Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear*. The 2010 revision to the 107 standard was published in January, after the 2009 MUTCD was issued.

The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) asked the FHWA to recognize the 2010 edition of the high visibility standard, and make it clear that garments labeled as meeting the revised standard will satisfy the MUTCD mandate.

In a May 20, 2010 letter to ISEA, FHWA acknowledged that ANSI/ISEA 107-2010 is equivalent to the 2004 edition, and that garments labeled as meeting the revised standard will be considered in compliance with the applicable sections of the MUTCD.

“We appreciate the FHWA’s quick action in issuing this interpretation of the MUTCD’s requirements,” said ISEA President Dan Shipp. “By accepting garments labeled to either the 2004 or 2010 standards, they eliminate uncertainty about MUTCD compliance for suppliers, purchasers, users and regulators.”

The 2009 MUTCD, the standard for the nation’s roadways, took effect on January 15, 2010, and all states will have to adopt it as their standard within two years. Workers will have to be in compliance with the high-visibility apparel requirements by December 31, 2011.

ANSI/ISEA 107, first published in 1999, was developed by the ISEA High-Visibility Products Group in response to the need for greater protection for roadway workers, and approved as an American National Standard. It includes performance and design requirements for background and retroreflective material used in apparel that provides enhanced daytime and nighttime visibility to workers exposed to traffic hazards.

For more information about ANSI/ISEA 107-2010, including a copy of the official interpretation letter from FHWA, go to www.safetysafetyequipment.org.

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Arlington, Va.-based International Safety Equipment Association is the trade association for manufacturers of safety and personal protective equipment. Established in 1933, ISEA supports its nearly 80 member companies in manufacturing and marketing the highest-quality products to protect the safety and health of people who may be exposed to hazardous and potentially harmful environments while working on the job or at home.