

A photograph of a male worker in profile, facing right, operating a yellow forklift. He is wearing a red hard hat, safety glasses, a high-visibility orange and navy blue jacket with reflective silver stripes, and yellow gloves. The forklift is parked on a dirt surface at a construction site. In the background, there are utility poles and a sign that says "PUB PHARM". A large, light gray arrow graphic points from the top left towards the center of the image.

Issue1  
2017

# Our workwear and Clothing guide.

[www.sitexindustrial.com](http://www.sitexindustrial.com)

A decorative graphic consisting of a series of green dots connected by thin lines, forming a wavy, dotted line that curves across the bottom right corner of the page.

# Our workwear and clothing guide.

## Answering common questions in a handy guide.

### PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

OUR REF: VWJK08

Two band and brace designed, 100% polyester 300D Oxford reversible body warmer with a polyurethane coating. 65% Polyester, 35% cotton 200g quilt lining.

- Waterproof taped seams.
- Two secure lower pockets with Velcro seals.
- Fully reversible with quilted inner.

**EN 471:2003 + A1:2007**



### Introduction - types of workwear

Most basic workwear is designed to provide very general protection and is not classed as PPE under current legislation. This would include general workwear such as polo shirts, trousers, fleeces etc. which are usually used to promote company identity and provide a uniform dress code.

There are, however, some types of workwear designed to provide more specific protection and these are classed as PPE. Typical examples would include high visibility clothing, flame retardant garments and protective coveralls amongst others.

#### Basic Workwear (none PPE)

Sitex stock a wide range of workwear such as boilersuits, warehouse coats, polo shirts, work trousers, fleeces and other items in a range of styles and colours. Most of the selection process is down to personal preferences based on the type of work being done. For example we offer a wide range of work trousers with various options such as styles, knee pad pockets, elasticated waist, etc. to suit a wide range of trades.

#### High Visibility Workwear

This is probably the most common type of workwear and is widely used in industry and construction. There are various standards that are applicable and these are dealt with in a little more detail below.

#### EN471

This standard defines properties of high visibility workwear based on several parameters including the amount of background material and retro-reflective tape. To simplify the choice, garments normally fall into 3 classes which are detailed in the table below. In very simple terms Class 3 garments generally have banded sleeves, Class 2 garments are usually waistcoats and Class 1 generally applies to trousers.

#### EN471 - Class 3:

Highest level of protection - required for any persons working on or near motorways or dual carriage ways or airports. Must incorporate a minimum of 0.80 m<sup>2</sup> of background material and 0.20 m<sup>2</sup> of retro-reflective material.

#### EN471 - Class 2:

Required for any persons working on or near A and B class roads, also for delivery drivers. Must incorporate a minimum of 0.50 m<sup>2</sup> of background material and 0.13 m<sup>2</sup> of retro-reflective material.

#### EN471 - Class 1:

Minimum level of protection required for any persons working on a private road or to be used in conjunction with a higher classed garment. Must incorporate a minimum of 0.14 m<sup>2</sup> of background material and 0.1 m<sup>2</sup> of retro-reflective material.

#### High visibility workwear - GO/RT:

While standard EN471 workwear is suitable for many applications there is a separate category generally specified for work on or near railways. This specification is set out in Railway Group Standard GO/RT 3279:2012, a document that defines the 'minimum requirements for high-visibility clothing for being conspicuous on the lineside or on or near the line'.

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### DID YOU KNOW?



All of our new hi-vis products are individually packed in premium quality polybags with EAN code stickers.

The GO/RT 3279 standard is based on the same standard as the high visibility clothing dealt with earlier (European standard EN 471:2003 + A1:2007). It does however require garments to meet at least class 2 (the mid-point of a 3-class scale) of EN 471 for the minimum area of high-visibility materials used within a garment and this material must be orange. Railway locomotive headlights pick out retro-reflective materials in high-visibility clothing. The railway standard requires materials to achieve the highest levels of photometric performance from EN 471:2003 + A1:2007.

GO/RT 3279 also defines the extra requirements for a high-visibility minivest. These are required to conform to the Class 1 design requirements of EN 471:2003 + A1:2007, BUT exceed the minimum areas for both reflective tape and background material laid out in EN471.

### Limited life workwear

Standard workwear is fairly expensive and generally designed to be worn and washed, not always the best option for limited use or when dealing with toxic particles such as asbestos. In these circumstances disposable workwear can be an effective option. This type of workwear generally falls into two categories, simple minimal risk garments used to protect a users clothes from general low risk soiling or Category III garments for protection against more specific chemicals and dusts.

### Flame retardant workwear

With modern manufacturing methods this type of workwear is not as common as it once was but is still used in industry where there is a risk of sparks or flames coming into contact with the wearer. The important thing to note with this type of workwear is that it is flame retardant and not as many people think flame proof. This type of workwear may char and allow contact with underlying garments and while it will self extinguish, the underlying garment may not.

While useful for intermittent or accidental contact with sparks or flame it is not suitable for applications such as metal smelting or where a flame proof barrier is needed. It is also important to understand that the flame retardant finish can be removed or severely weakened by repeated washing and is not generally guaranteed after 25 washes.

### Waterproof workwear

The traditional yellow PVC rainsuit has largely been superseded by lighter more breathable products or more often high visibility clothing. Sitex offer a range of lightweight nylon wetsuits as well as an extensive high visibility range.

### Thermal workwear

For outside working in winter or when working in cold stores additional protection may be needed. While hardly glamorous, thermal underwear can provide a low cost yet effective solution. Bodywarmers in standard or Hi-Vis versions can also provide useful core heat retention while leaving arms free from constraint. A lot of body heat can also be lost through the head and thermal liners for safety helmets can assist greatly in reducing this, or if a safety helmet is not required, a simple knitted hat can be equally effective.

