



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2000

David S. Ekern, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

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To: Virginia News Media
From: VDOT Public Affairs
Subj.: Reflective Vests Required on Highway Right of Way

We want to make sure your news outlet is aware of a new federal regulation that requires all workers to wear a reflective vest when in the highway right of way or in a location exposed to traffic or equipment operating within the highway right of way. The Federal Highway Administration has interpreted the regulation and the term "workers" to include members of the news media. The regulation takes effect Nov. 24, 2008.

As reporters and photographers often cover incidents, do live shots or stand ups within the highway right of way, the Virginia Department of Transportation wants to ensure that media outlets understand the new regulation and have adequate time to equip their news crews with reflective vests. These vests must be compliant with ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 (Class II or III safety vests).

Federal Regulation 23 CFR Part 634, "Worker Visibility," can be found online at:
http://www.workzonesafety.org/files/documents/laws_regulations/federal/nov_24_06.pdf

VDOT has set up a page on our Web site with links to the new regulation and to other resources:
<http://www.virginiadot.org/news/vests.asp>

News organizations are encouraged to add their logo to the back of the vest so that the wearer is easily identifiable as a member of the news media.

Please contact your local VDOT Public Affairs office if you have any questions. Ensuring that your employees wear these reflective vests will increase their safety as well as the safety of highway workers and motorists.