

Lead standards committee:	Traffic Operation and Management - TOM	Date:	TBC
Subject:	Five-year review of RIS-3279-TOM issue 2 High Visibility Clothing		
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1. Purpose of the paper

- 1.1 This paper sets out the outcome of the five-year review of RIS-3279-TOM issue 2 High Visibility Clothing.
- 1.2 Standards committee approval is sought for the recommendation and way forward.

2. Background

- 2.1 RIS-3279-TOM issue two sets out the industry's agreed minimum technical criteria for high-visibility clothing that must be worn by staff when on the lineside or on or near the line. It applies to all high-visibility clothing worn in order to meet the requirements of GERT8000, the Rule Book.
- 2.2 This standard ensures consistency in locations where staff must be seen. It is crucial that any high-visibility clothing meets the required specifications for safety-critical staff within any rail-related organisation. This extends to organisations such as the Samaritans who may require PPE to be worn within railway property, so it has quite a broad reach for organisations who may need to use the standard.
- 2.3 The first publication of this standard was in 2016 where it replaced GORT3279, as the information within this document could no longer be retained as a railway group standard although no changes were made to the wording itself.
- 2.4 In 2019, the standard was republished. The changes made in issue two were as a result of three objectives in the business case. This led to changes which consisted of:
 - Re-writing the standard so it conformed to the structure of a RIS to include 'requirements', 'rationale' and 'guidance'.
 - The option of staff only wearing a mini-vest being removed due to potential issues with obscurity when they were worn.
 - Additional guidance on wearing high-visibility garments which do not meet the approved type referenced in BS EN ISO 20471:2013 High-Visibility Clothing.

3. Impacts on the standard(s) following publication/entering into force

- 3.1 Consideration has been given to the following during the review:
 - a Business case for change – The objectives of the business case for change were met.

- b Deviations – Deviations are not applicable to rail industry standards. However, the traffic operations and management standards committee was approached for an opinion. 22-053 inclusion of a patch with details of the Samaritans on high visibility clothing.
- c Current projects or proposals being processed – No projects or proposals being processed.
- d Amendments and clarifications – There have been no amendments and clarifications since the last publication of RIS-3279-TOM issue two.
- e Enquiries – There have been a number of enquiries regarding high visibility clothing. Topics include:
 - How manufacturers conform to the standard.
 - The risk of entanglement from mini-vests.
 - Clarification on the requirements of conductors and dispatch staff to wear high-visibility vests.
 - The potential for the inclusion of high-visibility shorts.
 - Clothing colours
 - High-visibility clothing size.
- f Research projects – A research project, S398 *Review of Hi-Vis Standards*, has been initiated due to the number of enquiries regarding further clarity on high visibility clothing. This research project seeks further understanding on the purpose of using orange for railway high visibility clothing, the limitations of this clothing type, and further ways compliance could be met. This could lead to recommendations regarding guidance on high-visibility clothing that is accessible for wearers. The conclusion of the research is yet unknown, but there may be some recommendations that require the standard to be updated.
- g Regulations – No relevant impact on RIS-3279-TOM issue two.
- h National technical specification notices (NTSNs) and European standards – There is no relevant impact on the standard. However, BS EN ISO 20471:2013, which is referenced in the standard, was updated to BS EN ISO 20471:2016.
- i Changes in technology – This is not thought to impact the standard.
- j Are there any barriers to adoption? – None observed.
- k Any other observations – a new standard, BS 30417:2025 Provision of inclusive personal protective equipment (PPE), was published in September 2025.

4. Discussion

4.1 Review outcome

- 4.1.1 The review has identified that RIS-3279-TOM is a valid document that is relevant for industry. There are some minor changes that could be included such as reference to the updated BSI standard and guidance on inclusive high-visibility clothing. However, as the research project is still ongoing, it would be sensible to wait for the conclusion of this, to provide a more informed decision on whether any recommendations propose further content be included in the standard.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 TOM SC is asked to:
- a DISCUSS the outcome of the five-year review, the consultation comments and draft responses and the proposed recommendation:
 - i. Make no change to RIS-3279-TOM issue two, but review the standard again upon the conclusion of the research project.
 - b APPROVE the above recommendation.

RSSB completion: [\[do not delete\]](#)

Standards committee	Meeting date	Decision	Minute numbers		Next review date approved by the lead standards committee
			Pre-consultation review	Post-consultation review	
Traffic Operation & Management		Approved			

Appendix A Disposition table for standard(s) recommended for withdrawal

A.1 Standard number, title, issue [one table per standard]

Clause number	Clause title	Way forward	Comments
		Withdraw	Why the clause is no longer needed

Appendix B Associated information to support the review

The information in this appendix is provided by the industry groups information manager to assist with the review. This appendix should be deleted prior to submitting the review form to the SCs.

Deviations	22-053-DEV Inclusion of a patch with details of Samaritans on high visibility clothing
Request for Help	None
Proposals	None
Amendments or clarifications	None
Point releases	None
Technical notes	None
Enquiries	CAS-04896-M8R0B8 High visibility clothing CAS-02527-B6L4V9 High visibility mini-vests CAS-00932-L5M2T7 High Visibility Vest (HVV) CAS-04617-C3Q5G7 Hi-vis shorts off-network CAS-08315-D5P3F5 Clothing colour when on or near the line for railway staff CAS-08487-T6S9L6 Determination of colour
Business case for change	Business case for change
CIRAS	
Information from RMDB Note: update RMDB to reflect action/decision	
Other intelligence and relevant information	RIS-3279-TOM (High visibility clothing) contains a requirement that quotes a BS EN standard (see below). ‘High-visibility clothing shall meet the minimum requirements for Class 2 garments set out in Table 1 of BS EN ISO 20471:2013.’ Women’s clothing garments in sizes smaller than 10 don't comply with the standard and there are women who wear smaller sizes. Consider how smaller sizes comply with the requirement, as clothing that is too large for the wearer could flap about and get in the way.

Related documents:

Process procedure for the 12 month and five-year review of Railway Group Standards and other documents