



CLEARING THE CONFUSION

COMPLIANCE OF RETRO-REFLECTIVE MATERIALS FOR SAFETY GARMENTS IN THE AUSTRALASIAN MARKETPLACE

Background

Any retro-reflective materials and devices used for safety garments (commonly referred to as 'tape') as applied to road traffic control purposes throughout Australasia must conform to the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1906.4:2010. Details of these standards have been provided in earlier NZWTA Ltd Fact Sheets.

Many of these products, whether just the tape or the entire garment, are imported into Australia and New Zealand. Where testing has been conducted in the country of manufacture, it is often tested to the European Standard EN ISO 20471:2013.



A product meeting the specifications of EN ISO 20471:2013 does not necessarily mean it will comply with AS/NZS 1906.4:2010. There are a number of key differences between the standards. In particular, this Fact Sheet will identify where retesting is required to ensure conformance to the AS/NZS standard.

Application

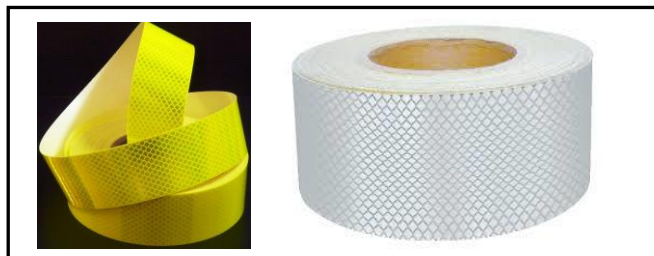
Photometric Performance and Colour

In some cases the results from testing under EN ISO 20471 need only be checked against the criteria for AS/NZS 1906.4:2010. Unfortunately this comparison can be confusing since the EN ISO and AS/NZS methods use different systems for setting observation angles during testing. NZWTA Ltd can provide advice on this to check if garments meet the AS/NZS standard.

Durability Tests

AS/NZS 1906.4: 2010 sets additional criteria to the EN ISO method for durability tests. Hence the following sections all require retesting to comply with the AS/NZS standard:

- Exposure to light
- Washing tests
- Abrasion testing
- Testing at raised temperature
- Resistance to flexing
- Resistance to cold cracking



Note: Retro-reflective material that is sensitive to orientation will also require rainfall performance retesting.

Advice on Retro-Reflective Testing

If you are involved with the manufacturing or importation of high-visibility garments, NZWTA Ltd can help to confirm whether these garments comply with local standards.

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