



# VITALS

Mike Szczygiel (Segal)  
888-969-8033  
meszczygiel@thomcoins.com

A Weekly Safety Newsletter For Medical Transport Professionals

## High Visibility Vest Requirement Reminder

This goes into effect on November 24, 2008 and applies to all emergency responders. Remember that the Rule (634.3) indicates: "All workers within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway who are exposed either to traffic (vehicles using the highway for purposes of travel) or to construction equipment within the work area shall wear High-Visibility Safety Apparel." High-Visibility Safety Apparel is a "personal protective safety clothing that is intended to provide conspicuity during both daytime and nighttime usage, and that meets the Performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the ANSI/ISEA 107-2004."

After the High-Visibility law was finalized, ANSI/ISEA 207 was published and too late to be included in the law. Naturally, 107 and 207 have some differences. The DOT Federal Highway Administration's Associate Administrator for Operations has written the Emergency Responder Safety Institute and acknowledged that they have reviewed ANSI 207 and "found the standard compatible with ANSI ISEA [107] Class II requirements for night-time visibility." Since the apparel must be worn during both day and night hours, the FHWA doesn't officially make 107 and 207 interchangeable.

The American Ambulance Association (AAA) has contacted multiple sources that have made it clear that the intent is for either ANSI 107 or 207 vests to be used. Until this is made official, it might be a good idea to obtain legal counsel to figure out the most appropriate compliance strategy.

## Radio Wave Devices and Medical Equipment

The June 25, 2008 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* published the findings of a Dutch study that looked at the effects of radio frequency identification device systems on medical equipment in a simulated ICU. These identification systems are used in respirators, IV pumps, drug blister packs and other things to keep track of inventory and maintain quality. The investigators used two types of devices around 41 medical devices and looked for electromagnetic interference (EMI) in a simulated ICU. They conducted 134 tests and recorded 34 incidents. 22 of the incidents were hazardous, such as, causing a mechanical ventilator to shut off and confusing an external pacemaker. Other EMI incidents caused an inaccurate mechanical blood pressure reading and "snow" on monitor screens. With the increasing sophistication of the electronics used in an ambulance, it's a good idea not to take anything for granted. Anything that sends out an electrical signal or is part of a system that requires reading by a scanner should be thoroughly investigated before being used in proximity to a medical device.

Sponsored By:  THOMCO

This publication is provided for information purposes only and is not intended as a complete or exhaustive source of compliance or safety information. This "Safety Brief" is advisory in nature and does not warrant, guarantee, or otherwise certify compliance with laws, regulations, requirements, or guidelines of any local, state, or Federal agency.