



RITZ SAFETY

# Learning Guide: 6 Things You Need to Know

About Wind-Resistant Hi-Vis Apparel





Ensuring employees are equipped with the right safety apparel is crucial. Hi-visibility (hi-vis) wind-resistant apparel plays a crucial role in protecting your workforce from both the elements and potential hazards. However, understanding the intricacies of these garments, including their design, functionality and the relationship between hi-visibility, waterproofing and wind resistance, is essential.

### **The Science Behind High-Visibility Wind-Resistant Fabric**

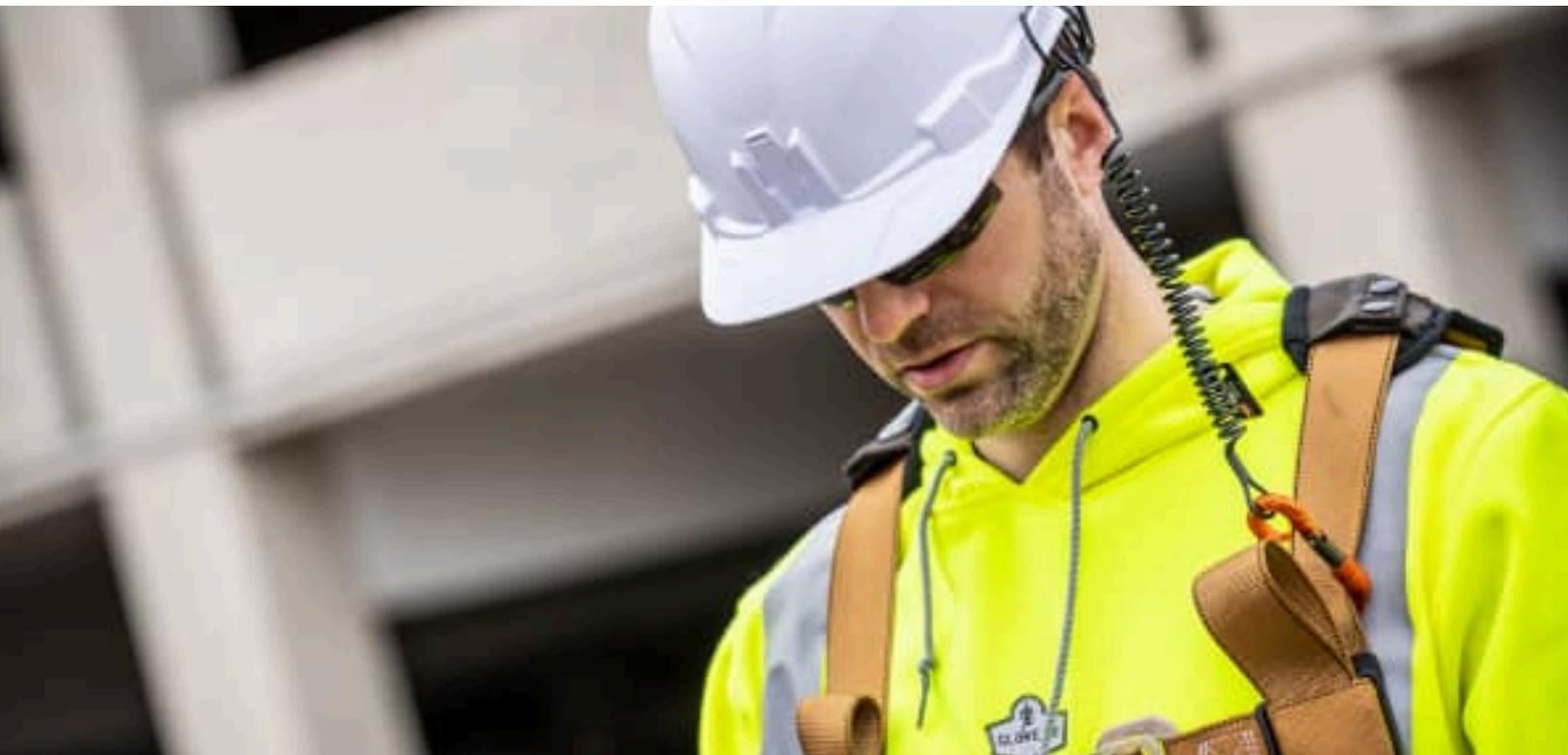
Hi-visibility fabrics are meticulously engineered to maintain worker visibility even in low-light or adverse weather conditions. The effectiveness of these fabrics lies in the integration of fluorescent and reflective materials, which enhance visibility both during the day and at night. Strategically placed on the garment, these materials maximize visibility from various angles, thereby contributing to improved workplace safety. Moreover, some high-visibility fabrics are also designed to be wind-resistant, offering an additional layer of protection against harsh outdoor elements.

**Let's talk about six things you need to know about wind-resistant hi-vis apparel...**

# 1

## What is the difference between wind-resistant and windproof?

Wind-resistant fabric refers to a material that provides some level of protection against wind penetration, but may not completely block airflow. It is designed to reduce the effects of wind while still allowing some air to pass through. On the other hand, windproof fabric offers a higher level of protection by effectively blocking all airflow, providing complete resistance to wind penetration. The distinction between wind-resistant and windproof fabric is measured by the fabric's ability to withstand airflow, typically quantified by a fabric's air permeability rating. Wind-resistant fabrics have a lower air permeability rating, indicating that they allow some airflow, whereas windproof fabrics have a higher rating, indicating that they block airflow entirely.



## 2

# When should employees wear wind-resistant vs. windproof hi-vis apparel?

Employees should wear wind-resistant high-visibility apparel in conditions where there is a moderate to strong breeze or wind, but not necessarily gusty or severe winds. Wind-resistant apparel provides adequate protection against wind chill while still allowing some airflow, making it suitable for most outdoor work environments. On the other hand, employees should opt for windproof hi-vis apparel when working in areas with consistently strong or gusty winds, where complete protection against wind penetration is necessary to maintain warmth and comfort. Windproof apparel ensures that workers remain shielded from wind, particularly in harsh weather conditions or at high elevations.



3

## Is all high-vis apparel wind-resistant?

Not all hi-vis apparel is inherently wind-resistant. While hi-vis apparel is primarily designed to enhance worker visibility in various conditions, its wind-resistant properties can vary depending on the specific materials and construction techniques used in its production.

4

## Is all wind-resistant hi-vis apparel water-resistant or waterproof?

Although wind-resistant fabric provides protection against wind chill, it may not necessarily be water-resistant or waterproof. While some wind-resistant fabrics repel light moisture, they may not fully withstand heavy rainfall or prolonged exposure to wet conditions unless noted. If workers also need protection from rain and moisture, choose hi-vis apparel that is both wind-resistant and water-resistant or waterproof, or for more heavy-duty wind and water protection, opt for rainwear.

5

## Is wind-resistant fabric breathable?

Wind-resistant fabrics are designed to balance protection with breathability, allowing moisture vapor to escape while still blocking the passage of air. This ensures that workers remain comfortable even during physical exertion in windy conditions

6

## What are some other features that make hi-vis apparel more wind-resistant?

Several features contribute to a garment's wind resistance, including adjustable cuffs, double zippers, drawstring hoods, drawstring hems with internal adjustment and barrel toggles, and reinforced seams. Seam sealing is another wind-blocking feature that involves applying a waterproof tape or sealant to the seams of a garment to prevent penetration. Seam sealing enhances the garment's overall waterproofing and wind-resistance, ensuring maximum protection against the elements.

By understanding these key aspects of wind-resistant hi-vis apparel, you can make informed decisions when purchasing safety apparel for your workforce. Prioritizing worker safety not only enhances productivity but also fosters a positive and secure work environment.