

3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric European Product Bulletin

1. Product Information

3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric is intended to enhance the visibility of the wearer during darkness and in low-light conditions. It can be applied to fire fighting apparel and flame resistant occupational work wear, where enhanced visibility of the wearer, in combination with heat resistance and wear durability is required.

The fabric will appear brilliant white when illuminated by vehicle headlights, even when the wearer is situated at the side of the road.

When converting/storing the reflective material certain circumstances (see e.g. 6.2) may change the uniform appearance of the reflective material, but will not affect the reflective properties, and therefore, the defined functionality.

2. Product Features

2.1 Product Design

3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric consists of exposed high performance glass lenses bonded to a special polymer layer and a flame resistant aramid backing.

2.2 Performance according to EN 471 (High-Visibility Warning Clothing)

3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric:

- Exceeds the highest brightness requirements (EN471 Level 2) for retroreflective material.
- Is non-orientation sensitive.
- Offers 60°C domestic wash durability, 50 cycles per EN 471.

- Offers 90°C domestic wash durability, 25 cycles per ISO 6330 Method 1A.
- Offers industrial laundering and finishing durability per EN471.
- Offers good dry-cleaning durability, 30 cycles per EN 471.
- Offers enhanced abrasion and chemical resistance.

2.3 Performance according to EN 469 (Protective Clothing for Fire Fighter)

3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric:

- Complies with the performance requirements for flammability
 - after 50 wash cycles in accordance to ISO 6330, 2A
 - after 25 cycles in accordance to ISO 6330, 1A
 - after 25 cycles in accordance to ISO 15797, method 8
- Exceeds the minimum retroreflective performance requirements of EN 471 after radiant heat at 10kw/m² for 3 minutes and convective heat exposure at 180°C for 5 minutes.
- Offers excellent resistance to heat with high retroreflective performance retention after exposure to 260°C for 5 minutes, even after 50 cycles per ISO 6330, 2A.

2.4 Special Feature

To ensure consistency of performance, 3M™ Scotchlite™ reflective materials are manufactured within an ISO 9002 controlled manufacturing environment.

3. General Safety Information

Read 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric Product Bulletin carefully.

The wearer is ultimately responsible for his/her own safety;

- Verify the suitability of 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric for the intended use of the PPE (EC Directive 89/656/EEC Art. 4 and Art. 5; EC Communication 89/C328/EEC Annex §7).
- No reflective material can guarantee absolute visibility.
- Various factors (e.g., environmental) can influence visibility. For further details, see chapter 8 “Specific Safety Information”.
- Field test the finished garment to verify its suitability for intended use and to select appropriate care conditions.

4. Product Application

Retroreflective materials are important in applications where being visible can reduce the risk of an accident. Examples of hazardous situations where high-visibility garments should be worn include exposure to vehicular traffic of motorways, rural and urban roads, railway environments, airports and docks.

3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric is a highly durable flame resistant material recommended for garments that will be subjected to domestic or industrial laundry procedures.

4.1 Occupational Application

Fire fighting apparel and flame resistant occupational work wear, where enhanced flame and heat resistance as well as high wear durability is required, such as fire coats, turnout coats, trousers, coveralls, jackets and uniforms.

5. Product Converting

5.1 Cutting

3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Flame Resistant Fabric can be handcut, die-cut or guillotined (max. 5 cm stack height).

Note: Use very sharp cutting knives only and cut from the reflective side.

5.2 Sewing

3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric can be applied directly to a fabric. It is best suited for flame resistant fabrics with a weight of 230 - 350 g/m².

The reflective fabric should be sewn with a Teflon® coated brand circular top needle, using a flame retardent thread (e.g. aramid). To minimise edge fraying, sew in place using a lockstitch of 3 mm stitch length, placed at least 3 mm from the edge of the reflective fabric.

Note: Whenever two or more pieces of reflective fabric are used together on a single surface or as a set, they should be matched to ensure uniform daytime colour appearance.

Colour variations may occur during the production of new retroreflective material. These do not affect the performance of the 3M™ Scotchlite™ reflective material, which will comply to the performance requirements described in EN 471 for retroreflective material.

5.3 Silk Screen Printing

Due to the product construction, durable prints on glass bead products are difficult to obtain.

Choice of ink will depend upon usage conditions and care procedures. User should make test applications and select the appropriate care instruction for the finished product to ensure adequate adhesion of the ink. It is recommended that the ink adhesion be tested on the actual batch of 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric being used before production.

Opaque silk screen printing inks will appear black, transparent inks will reduce brightness when viewed as retroreflected light in low-light conditions.

Note: Refer to 3M Technical Information “**Printing Guideline for Glass Bead Products**”. For further information contact your 3M representative.

*Teflon is a trademark of DuPont Company

6. Handling and Storage

6.1 Product Storage

Store in a cool, dry area and use within 2 year of receipt.

Rolls should be stored in their original cartons, while partially used rolls should be returned to their carton or suspended horizontally from the core via a rod or pipe.

Cut sheets should be stored flat.

6.2 Handling and Storage Precautions

Aggressive chemicals, e.g., sulphur or chlorine containing compounds, perspiration, strong acids or bases may affect the aesthetic appearance of 3M™ Scotchlite™ Silver Reflective Materials. When exposed to excessive heat and more than 70% relative humidity conditions, these products have the potential to become stained. These stains do not affect the retroreflective performance of the material and do not indicate that the input product was defective.

Care must be taken by the user when handling 3M™ Scotchlite™ Silver Reflective Materials in hot and humid environments. During application, storage and shipping, ambient conditions should be kept. Measures like cooling, dehumidifying the manufacturing area and specific handling precautions should be taken. Appropriate specific storekeeping is essential.

Knowing the individual situation, the user may contact 3M for further advice if needed.

7. Product Maintenance

Reflective fabrics and films naturally age. Ageing depends upon material type, conditions of use, environment and maintenance procedures.

The retroreflective performance of all reflective materials is affected by soiling. Any kind of dirt, liquid chemicals, grease and alike will reduce brightness in the area of contamination.

7.1 Product Cleaning

Frequent care and maintenance will ensure the continued effectiveness of the reflective material. The cleaning frequency of the clothing depends on the degree of soiling expected in the working environment.

It is recommended that the garment be cleaned after every intervention.

Before usage, the user shall determine the suitability of the intended care process for 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric. A test application of the finished garment should be conducted to determine the maximum number of care cycles expected for each application.

For cleaning, see 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric Care Guideline. For consultation on care, contact your local 3M representative.

For manual cleaning, damp wipe with a soft sponge or cloth using a mild wash detergent.

For stain removal of fat or mineral oil etc., use a soft, clean cloth dipped into white spirit. Wipe clean with water afterwards.

Caution:

The use of other stain removers such as aromatic solvents or oxidising/corrosive substances is not recommended.

Washing/cleaning conditions harsher than those recommended shorten the product's lifetime significantly.

7.2 Special Cleaning Instructions

- For application on rainwear, a regular fluorocarbon treatment of the garment is recommended.
- Chemical splashes should be removed with a soft, dry cloth. Cleaning the garment the same day is recommended.
- Splashes of strong acids or alkalis should immediately be neutralised with plenty of water.
- Contamination with toxic or poisonous substances or bio-contamination will require the application of a specific decontamination process.
- Application of high alkaline products, solvenated detergents, bleaches, etc. are not recommended.
- Do not over dry. The temperature of the material should not exceed 90°C at any time during drying.

7.3 Maintenance Misuse

3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric is an optical system. Coating of the fabric with material of high refractive index, such as oil, will greatly diminish reflective performance.

- No harsh mechanical treatment, e.g. abrasion with wire brushes or sand paper.
- No uniform coating or spraying of oils, protective waxes, inks or paint.
- No application of materials such as leather spray or shoe shine.

7.4 Inspection

High-visibility warning clothing should be maintained in good condition and inspected regularly for signs of damage or deterioration.

Where frequent care cycles are performed, inspection should be pursued after every cleaning cycle. Records of test results should be kept for reference.

Replacement of the reflective material must be considered, if the retroreflective performance is below $RA = 100 \text{ cd/lux/m}^2$ (refer to EN 471).

For specific guidance contact your local 3M representative.

7.5 Product Disposal

Product can be recycled attached to the garment. The product can be incinerated in a commercial or industrial facility or disposed in a sanitary landfill. Before recycling, the compatibility shall be determined with the intended recycling process.

8. Specific Safety Information

8.1 Visibility Limits see chapter 3 “General Safety Information”

Various environmental factors such as line of sight, rain, fog, smoke, dust and visual noise can influence visibility.

Recognition of the wearer can also be significantly reduced, if the reflective material is covered, e.g. by simultaneously wearing personal protective equipment or obstacles in the working zone.

In such instances the wearer should be aware of these limitations.

The brightness of 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric can also be diminished in extreme weather conditions.

- Test results show, that 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Material - 8940 Silver Industrial Wash Flame Resistant Fabric exceeds the retroreflective performance requirements in rainfall conditions as defined in EN 471. Initial brightness levels return as the material dries.
- Fog, mist, smoke and dust can scatter the light from headlights. Where optical density levels are high, the wearer must be aware that detection distances will be severely reduced.
- Visual noise (contrast variations in the visual field) decreases the contrast of the reflective material with the background and affects the visibility in low-light conditions.

Important Notice to Purchaser / Converter / Wearer:

All statements, technical information and recommendations herein are based on tests we believe to be reliable, but the accuracy or completeness thereof is not guaranteed. We shall not be liable and no warranty shall apply for products not applied according to our published information folder.

Before using/converting, the user/converter must determine the suitability of the product for its intended use/converting, and the user/converter assumes all risk and liability whatsoever in connection therewith. All questions of warranty and liability relating to this product are governed by the terms of the sale subject where applicable to the prevailing law.

No statement or recommendation not contained herein shall have any force or effect unless in an agreement signed by officers of us.