

Life Jacket or Buoyant Work Vest Requirement

A new BNSF System General Order was issued, effective July 1, 2019 requiring all employees/contractors wear a life jacket or buoyant work vest when working within 6 feet of an edge where the potential to fall into:

- Standing water that is greater than 4 feet deep or
- Flowing water that is swift enough to affect balance or
- Water where the danger of drowning exists.



When life jackets or buoyant work vest are required, they must be worn as the outermost garment. Life jackets and buoyant work vest must be properly worn/fastened and be appropriately sized for the employee/contractor.

Exception:

Employees/Contractors utilizing fall protection (work procedures, conventional, arrest/restraint) that protects against the risk of falling into water are not required to wear life jackets or buoyant work vest.

Should you have any questions regarding this new requirement, please do not hesitate to reach out to your regional Hazmat Director or Manager.