

Conspicuity of Motorcyclists Using High Visibility Vest from the Perspective Of Other Road Users

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Abstract

Motorcyclists have been known to register the highest road fatality rate amongst all road users in Malaysia each year. It is believed that low conspicuity of motorcyclists to other road users may increase the risk of motorcycle related accidents. The main objective of this study is to determine the effectiveness of High Visibility Vest (HVV) donned by motorcyclists in enhancing their conspicuity whilst on the road. The research is conducted using semi-quantitative and video recording approaches to measure the conspicuity of motorcyclists donning HVV to road users. In total, six hundred and eleven (611) respondents participated in this study. Results showed significant difference in terms of gender and occupation with regards to the practice of donning HVV. The study also found that the overall wearing rate of the respondents who “always” wore a HVV when riding was only 7.1%. In addition, the percentage of respondents who correctly identify the number of motorcyclists who wore HVV is higher by 16.9% than those without HVV during daytime, whereas the number of motorcyclists who wore HVV during nighttime is higher by 13% than those without HVV. Non-motorcyclists reported that 10.9% of the motorcyclists wore HVV during the occurrence of accidents. This figure is almost similar to the figure reported by motorcyclists whereby 10.2% of them are wore HVV during the occurrence of accidents. Therefore, High Visibility Vest (HVV) is consider as an important "tool" especially on the road to increase the conspicuity level of motorcyclists among road users and indirectly could reduce the occurrence of road accidents involving motorcyclists in the nation.