



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 117
[2005 Assembly Bill 117]

**Blaze Orange Clothing not
Required for Hunting at Night**

The statutes require a hunter to wear blaze orange clothing during any open season for the hunting of deer with firearms. Under this statute, during a firearm deer season, no one may hunt any game except waterfowl during that season unless 50% of each article of the person's outer clothing above the waist is of a highly visible color commonly known as blaze orange.

There are now firearm deer seasons at times when hunting raccoons, fox, and coyotes is allowed at night. This occurs, for example, in areas where there is an open season to hunt deer for purposes of controlling disease in the deer herd. Although the allowable hours for hunting deer may have ended for the day, the gun deer season is still "open," thus imposing the requirement to wear blaze orange, even while hunting at night.

Act 117 creates an exemption from the requirement to wear blaze orange clothing while hunting at night during a firearm deer season if the person is hunting for game other than deer that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) authorizes to be hunted during that gun deer season. In Act 117, hunting "at night" means "from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise." The Act is thus similar to the hours of the gun deer season, which are from 30 minutes before sunrise to 20 minutes after sunset.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on March 16, 2006.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.