

HAND PROTECTION



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We use our hands for every aspect of our working life, relying on these two critically-important parts of our body to perform the most intricate tasks each day. Having decent hand protection for your team ensures that risks arising from cuts, abrasions, use of chemicals or manipulating machinery and equipment can be mitigated effectively, keeping these vital body parts safe from harm.

When it comes to understanding the various standards and ratings applicable to hand protection, it can be confusing to wade through the various classifications to make an informed choice for your team. In the UK, a new version of the existing standards was published, which built upon the EN ISO:21420 requirements, specifically to oversee the compliant deployment of gloves and hand protection.

EN 388:2016 is the 2016 revised standard for glove markings, and this standard is mandatory in 2021 – that's why it's important to get clued up and ensure that your team is compliant before the previous standard is phased out as best practice.

UNDERSTANDING EN 388:2016

EN 388:2016 has a number of additional requirements which employers need to consider in selecting the ideal hand protection for their team. The following summary details where the revised standards differ from previous best practice guidance.

THE CUT TEST

Previously, fabric swatches which were tested to determine the degree of cut resistance used the Coupe Blade Test as standard. With the new regulations, there is an EN ISO:13997 Cut Test, which is favoured as the Coupe Blade test tended to have a blunting effect upon the blade while being undertaken.








CUT LEVELS

In the new guidance, there are now six different cut level classifications. This has been amended to ensure that products featuring a higher degree of protection may be tested compliantly and identified.

IMPACT PROTECTION TESTING

The new standard also features a new marking, specifically designed to distinguish between levels of Impact Protection testing,

STANDARDS

	EN 388:2016 Protection against mechanical hazards
	EN 374-2:2003 Protection against Micro-organisms
	EN 511:2006 Protection against cold
	EN 407:2004 Protection against thermal hazards
	EN 374-3:2003 Protection against harsh chemicals
	EN 374-1:2016 Protection against low chemical hazards
	Framework Regulations (EC) 1935/2004 General principles for the manufacture and use of materials that come into contact with food

UNDERSTANDING THE VARIOUS SURFACES APPLIED TO HAND PROTECTION

Hand protection can be manufactured using a range of different coatings, each of which has different features and benefits which are listed below:

PU - Polyurethane remains one of the most popular coatings, which provides lightweight protection with a degree of flexibility, making it comfortable to deploy. It creates a very robust and durable product which offers sound grip and freedom of movement.

Latex - Latex gloves are a popular choice for a great number of professionals and sectors. Latex is highly elastic, maximising both grip and comfort for the wearer. It is the sound selection where comfort and grip are of paramount performance. That said, quite a number of individuals can be allergic to latex materials, meaning an alternative may need to be provided for some members of your team.

Flat Nitrile - Flat nitrile tends to be used for hand protection which requires strong durability, with a high degree of both abrasion and puncture resistance. It's ideal for working with slippery substances such as oil, but doesn't afford much flexibility for the wearer to undertake more detailed tasks requiring an enhanced degree of manual dexterity.

Foam Nitrile - Foam nitrile has great abrasion resistance, and also affords significant resistance to both tears, and punctures from handling equipment or sharp objects. It is also a sound choice for operatives needing a strong grip level, for inclement weather conditions or working with liquids such as oil. Foam nitrile tends to be comfortable to wear, and also offers a breathable material which reduces hand perspiration and discomfort in warm conditions.

ROKWEAR

EN 388:2016



3X44C

Size 8



OGL.2158

#weprotectyourhands

3 X 44 CP



Abrasion
Resistance



Cut
Resistance



Tear
Resistance



Puncture
Resistance



EN ISO Cut
Resistance

LEVEL	EN ISO CUT RESISTANCE
A	2 Newtons 204 gms
B	5 Newtons 505 gms
C	10 Newtons 1020 gms
D	15 Newtons 1530 gms
E	22 Newtons 2243 gms
F	30 Newtons 3059 gms

OPTIONAL STANDARD

P	Passed optional standard for Impact Resistance
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