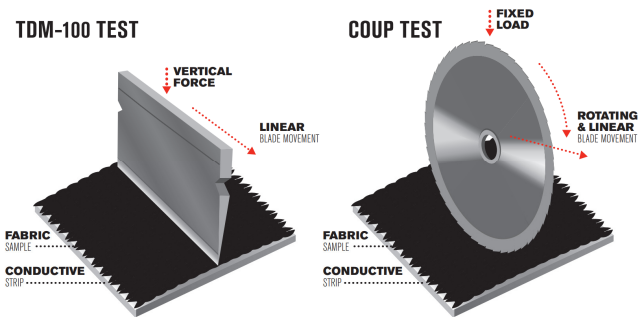
SHEQ COMMUNICATION

Ref: 58-2017 Changes to Cut Protection Standard

GUIDANCE ON THE RECENT CHANGES TO THE EN 388 STANDARD FOR PROTECTIVE GLOVES

The European Standard for Protective Gloves, EN 388, was updated on November 4, 2016 and is now in the process of being ratified by each member country. Glove manufacturers selling in Europe have two years to comply with the new EN 388 2016 standard.

The most significant change to the EN 388 2016 standard is the formal inclusion of the ISO 13997 cut test method, also known as the "TDM-100 Test", makes use of the Tomodynamometer (TDM) machine with sliding blade and weights. Up until now, the 'Coup Blade Cut Test' has been the standard test method for cut protection.



A rotating circular blade moves horizontally to-and-fro across a fabric sample with a fixed force of 5 Newtons (N) applied from above. The test ends when the blade breaks through the sample material and the result is calculated as an index value.

The 'Coup Blade Cut Test' method offers an effective representation for cuts caused by sharp, fairly lightweight objects, whereas the new EN ISO test provides a new category of cut protection (with 6 performance levels A to F) and gives a more accurate specification in terms of cut resistance during work type activities.

The updated EN 388 2016 standard will also include an impact protection test. This test is intended for gloves designed for protection against impact. Gloves that do not offer impact protection will not be subjected to this test. For that reason, there are three potential ratings that will be given, based on this test.

Remember the 5 Hand Saving Rules

- **Identify pinch points before using any piece of equipment.**
- **Use the appropriate hand tool for the task.**
- **Ensure sufficient barriers are in place.**
- **Wear appropriate gloves to perform the task.**
- **Use STAR (Stop, Think, Act, Review) to identify change.**

Gloves are still valid until 2021!

All gloves that have been certified to the existing EN 388:2003 standard will be valid until 2021. This means that until 2021 the new standard won't be widely used to measure cut resistance. All new gloves that are certified from now on however will be required to pass the new EN 388:2016 standard.

Test / Property	Performance Levels				
	1	2	3	4	5
AbrasionResistance-cycles	100	500	2000	8000	N/A
Blade Cut Resistance-cutindex	1.2	2.5	5	10	20
Tear Resistance-Newtons	10	25	50	70	N/A
PunctureResistance-Newtons	20	60	100	150	N/A

Old reference

EN 388

4 4 4 2

New reference

EN 388

4 4 4 2 C P

Remain the same

Impact Protection	
P	Passed
F	Failed
X	Not Tested

Cut Resistance (TDM-100 Test)	
Rating	Range (Newtons)
A	2 - 4.9
B	5 - 9.9
C	10 - 14.9
D	15 - 21.9
E	22 - 29.9
F	>30

Information taken from www.traffiglove.com and www.pipusa.com

How is the item to be cascaded and implemented?

Toolbox talk ☒ Team briefing ☒ SHEQ notice board ☒ Process change ☐ Supply chain ☐ SHE induction ☐ Other ☐

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