



## Hand Protection

*Getting it right!*

When purchasing hand protection it is vital to select the right type of glove, according to regulations and to use gloves appropriately. The following advice is intended to help you choose suitable gloves for protection against a variety of risks.

For chemical protection, CLEAPSS advises the use of re-usable gloves (usually EN 374-1/Type A) for instances where chemical exposure could present a high level of risk of causing damage to skin. Disposable gloves would be used in cases where chemical exposure would present a lower level of risk. Schools usually need a few dozen pairs of re-usable “/Type A” gloves while also keeping several boxes of “/Type B” available. Each letter on this standard indicates a chemical to which the product has been tested and approved to.

# Guide to relevant regulations

## Chemical and Biological

**EN 374/1**

**Type A (ex. ABCDEF)**  
The product can withstand 6 chemicals\* for at least 30 minutes.

**Type B (ex. ABC)**  
The product can withstand 3 chemicals\* for at least 30 minutes.

**Type C (none)**  
The product can withstand 1 chemical\* for at least 10 minutes.

**EN 374-5:2016**

This regulation indicates that the product has met the requirements when testing for protection against risks from micro-organisms (bacteria/fungi/vira).

There are two acceptable outcomes from the test:

1. The glove reaching the required level of protection from bacteria and fungi.
2. The glove reaching the required level of protection from bacteria, fungi and vira (if requested) (this will be indicated with the word VIRUS added to the pictogram).

EN ISO 374-1:2016/Type A
EN ISO 374-1:2016/Type B
EN ISO 374-1:2016/Type C



JKLMNO



JKL



ISO 374-5:2016



ISO 374-5:2016



VIRUS

## Mechanical

**EN 388:2016**

This standard specifies the level of protection which the glove provides against mechanical risks. Abrasion resistance, Tearing strength and Puncture resistance will be indicated by a rating 0-4 while Cut resistance (coup test) will be rated 0-5 where the 4 and 5 is the highest protection. Cut resistance (TDM test) is marked as A-F with F being the highest and Impact resistance will simply be "P" if applicable. If either of these tests are not applicable it will be indicated with "X".

1. Abrasion resistance \_\_\_\_\_
2. Cut resistance. Coup test \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tearing strength \_\_\_\_\_
4. Puncture resistance \_\_\_\_\_
5. Cut resistance. TDM test ISO 13997 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Impact protection \_\_\_\_\_



**EN 388**

**1 2 3 4 5 P**

## Medical

**EN 388:2016**

**Part 1.** EN 455-1 covers requirements and testing of gloves for freedom from holes.

**Part 2.** EN 455-2 covers requirements and tests for physical properties such as dimensions (length & width) and force at break both before and after heat ageing.

**Part 3.** EN 455-3 covers requirements and tests for biological evaluation.

**Part 4.** EN455-4 covers requirements and testing for shelf life determination.