



Did You Know?

Edition 9 | Protective Gloves & Gauntlets

▼ CATEGORIES FOR RISK LEVELS

All safety and protective clothing must comply with the European PPE Directive 89/686/EEC. For protective gloves and gauntlets, the directive specifies two classes of gloves that meet two levels of risk: 'minimal', and 'mortal' or 'irreversible' risk. There is a third class which falls between these two levels which can be described as 'intermediate'. The classes are known as Category I, II and III.

CATEGORY I - MINIMAL

For minimal risk only

Category I refers to gloves of a simple design offering protection from low level risks such as janitorial gloves. Manufacturers are permitted to test and certify Cat I gloves themselves.

Most safety gloves on the market are designed to meet Category II, to protect against intermediate risk and must show the CE mark. All safety gloves that protect the hands from mechanical risks must conform to the EN 388 standard. Depending on the intended use of the gloves, they may also conform to one or more additional standards ranging from cold and thermal hazards, to welding and chemical hazards.

CATEGORY II - INTERMEDIATE

For intermediate risk

Category II refers to gloves designed to protect against intermediate risk, like general handling gloves requiring good cut, puncture and abrasion performance). Cat II gloves must be subjected to independent testing and certification by a notified body.

CATEGORY III - MORTAL

For irreversible or mortal risk

Category III refers to gloves of a complex design. These gloves are designed to protect against the highest levels of risk and must also be tested and certified by a notified body. Each notified body has its own identification number, only these approved bodies may issue a 'CE' mark. For Cat III gloves, the identification number of the notified body must appear alongside the 'CE' mark. In addition, the QA system used by the manufacturer must be independently checked.

▼ EN STANDARDS FOR GLOVES

EN 420 - General requirements

This standard defines the general requirements for protective gloves in terms of construction, fitness of purpose and safety. To achieve this standard, the gloves must not impose a risk or cause injury. The pH of the gloves should be as close as possible to neutral, or between 3.5 and 9.5 for leather gloves.



EN 388 - Mechanical hazards

The standard for gloves designed to protect hands against mechanical risks, protecting against damage caused by abrasion, blade cut, puncture or tearing. Performance levels are rated between 0 and 4 (or 0 and 5 for blade cut), with 0 being the lowest and 4 the highest rating. This standard also covers the risk of electrostatic discharge.



EN 511 - Cold hazards

This standard applies to gloves designed to protect the hands against convective and contact cold (performance levels between 0 and 4), and also includes a performance level for waterproofness (0 or 1).



EN 407 - Thermal hazards

This refers to the protection against thermal hazards and covers burning behaviour, contact heat, convective heat, radiant heat and molten metal splash resistance of a glove, both small and large splashes. Performance levels are rated between 0 and 4.



EN 12477 - Welding hazards

This standard is a combination of the EN 388 and EN 407 standards and is used for welding gauntlets that provide protection for both hands and wrists. Type A gloves shall provide a higher protection against heat. Type B gloves provide a lower protection against heat but are more flexible and offer greater dexterity.



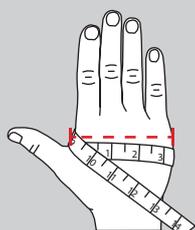
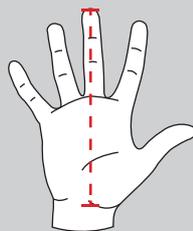
EN 374 - Chemical hazards

The standard to ensure the capability of gloves designed to protect the wearer against chemicals and/or micro-organisms. The standard tests both penetration of chemicals through porous materials, seams and imperfections at a non-molecular level, and permeation of gloves.

▼ GLOVE SIZING

To assure protective gloves are comfortable, it is essential to use the correct size. To determine the size needed for safety gloves, two measurements should be taken - the length and the width of the hand.

The length is measured from the bottom of the palm to the tip of the middle finger. Gloves must conform to a minimum length to meet the EN 420 standard, larger sizes of gloves have a longer minimum length.



The width (circumference) of the hand is measured with a cloth tape around the hand above the thumb but below the fingers. The circumference of the hand, rounded to the nearest half inch (1 inch = 2.54 cm) is numerically equal to the worker's average glove size.

Did You Know...

It is the responsibility of the employer to adhere to the PPE directive by selecting gloves of good quality that comply to the correct standards and are the fittest for the intended task. **OASIS** can lend a *helping hand* when it comes to choosing the right gloves to protect you and your workforce and can assist you in making the safest choice from our extensive range of hand protection.

Gloves that are too small can restrict movement and may not offer the full protection needed, and gloves that are too large can affect dexterity with excess material.

Those with long or short fingers may find gloves that are one-half or a full size larger or smaller than their measured hand size will fit more comfortably.

Glove Size	Circumference*	Circumference*	Min. length of glove
6 / XS	6 - 7 inches	152 - 178 mm	220 mm
7 / S	7 - 8 inches	178 - 203 mm	230 mm
8 / M	8 - 9 inches	203 - 229 mm	240 mm
9 / L	9 - 10 inches	229 - 254 mm	250 mm
10 / XL	10 - 11 inches	254 - 279 mm	260 mm
11 / XXL	11+ inches	279+ mm	270 mm

* Circumferences are approximate, care must be taken to choose the correct size.