TOOLBOX TALK

HAND PROTECTION

General Information

If a workplace hazard assessment reveals that employees face potential injury to hands that cannot be eliminated through engineering and work practice controls, employers must ensure that employees wear appropriate protection. Potential hazards include skin absorption of harmful substances, chemical or thermal burns, electrical dangers, bruises, abrasions, cuts, punctures, fractures, and amputations.

There are many types gloves available to protect a wide variety of hazards. The nature of the hazard and the operation involved will affect the selection of gloves.

The following are examples of some factors that may influence the selection of protective gloves.

- Type of chemicals handled
- Nature of contact (total immersion, splash, etc.)
- Duration of contact
- Area requiring protection (hand only, forearm, arm)
- Grip requirements (dry, wet, oily)
- Thermal protection
- Abrasion/resistance requirements

Gloves are made from a wide of materials and are designed for many types of workplace hazards. In general, gloves fall into four groups:

- Gloves made of leather, canvas, or metal mesh
- Fabric and coated fabric gloves
- Chemical and liquid resistant gloves
- Insulating rubber gloves (see 29 CFR 1920.137 and the following section on electrical protective equipment for detailed requirements on the selection, use and care of insulating rubber gloves).

Heat Protection Gloves | Leather Gloves | Cryogenic Gloves | Cut Resistant Gloves | Rubber Coated Fabric Gloves | Nitrile Gloves | Welding Gloves

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Types of Personal Protective Equipment

Leather gloves: protects against sparks, moderate heat, blows, chips and rough objects.

Aramid fiber gloves: protect against heat and cold, are cut and abrasive resistant and wear well.

Chemical and Liquid Resistant gloves are made with different kinds of rubber: natural, butyl, neoprene, nitrile, and fluorocarbon (Viton) or various kinds of plastic: polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyvinyl alcohol and polyethylene.

Aluminized gloves: provide reflective and insulating protection against heat and require an insert, made of synthetic materials to protect from heat and cold.

Fabric/Coated fabric gloves: protect against dirt, slivers, chafing and abrasions. Coated fabric gloves offer slip resistant qualities.

Note - When selecting gloves always check with the manufacture to determine the gloves' effectiveness against specific workplace chemical and conditions.