



NGFA Safety Tips: Glove Selection

...Committed to promoting safety and health in the workplace.

Protecting Employees in the Workplace

Hazards exist in every workplace in many different forms: sharp edges, falling objects, flying sparks, chemicals, noise and a myriad of other potentially dangerous situations. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that employers protect their employees from workplace hazards that can cause injury.

Controlling a hazard at its source is the best way to protect employees. Depending on the hazard or workplace conditions, OSHA recommends the use of engineering or work practice controls to manage or eliminate hazards to the greatest extent possible. For example, building a barrier between the hazard and the employees is an engineering control; changing the way in which employees perform their work is a work practice control.

When engineering, work practice and administrative controls are not feasible or do not provide sufficient protection, employers must provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to their employees and ensure its use. Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as “PPE”, is equipment worn to minimize exposure to a variety of hazards. Examples of PPE include such items as gloves, foot and eye protection, protective hearing devices (earplugs, muffs) hard hats, respirators and full body suits.

The “Hazard Assessment”

Before an employer can decide on which gloves to provide his/her worker, they must perform a hazard assessment. Also, OSHA’s [1910.138\(b\)](#), states that, “Employers shall base the selection of the appropriate hand protection on an evaluation of the performance characteristics of the hand protection relative to the task(s) to be performed, conditions present, duration of use, and the hazards and potential hazards identified”. A hazard assessment shall be performed, and a selection of type and performance based off associating hazards inherent in the job duties. A hazard assessment should begin with a walkthrough survey of the facility, noting potential hazards that are present given the work that is performed in those area. Basic Hazard Categories are:

- Impact
- Penetration,
- Chemical,
- Heat/Cold, and
- Biological



When the walkthrough is complete, the employer should organize and analyze the data so that it may be efficiently used in determining the proper types of gloves required at the worksite. The employer should become aware of the different types of gloves available and the levels of protection offered. It is definitely a good idea to select gloves that will provide a level of protection greater than the minimum required to protect employees from hazards.

- The NGFA is committed to promoting safety and health in the workplace, and shares the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA’s) commitment to protecting employees.
- The NGFA’s extensive efforts to enhance safety include unprecedented research and education efforts launched in the early 1980s that helped lead to a dramatic reduction in the number of fire and explosion incidents in commercial grain-handling facilities.
- Each year, NGFA jointly sponsors regional safety seminars with affiliated state and regional grain and feed associations. The one-day conferences focus on keeping grain handling employees physically safe.

The workplace should be periodically reassessed for any changes in conditions, equipment or operating procedures that could affect occupational hazards. This periodic reassessment should also include a review of injury and illness records to spot any trends or areas of concern and taking appropriate corrective action. The suitability of existing gloves, including an evaluation of its condition and age, should be included in the reassessment.

Documentation of the hazard assessment is required through a written certification that includes the following information:

- Identification of the workplace evaluated,
- Name of the person conducting the assessment,
- Date of the assessment, and
- Identification of the document certifying completion of the hazard assessment.

NOTE – OSHA recommends that selection be based upon the tasks to be performed and the performance and construction characteristics of the glove material. For protection against chemicals, glove selection must be based on the chemicals encountered, the chemical resistance and the physical properties of the glove material.

Commonly Used Gloves and their Unique Application



Leather

Leather – tough and durable, use for many different levels of physical jobs

Puncture/Cut Resistant – for use in specific jobs where cuts, lacerations, and punctures are likely

Welding – longer cuff and specific insulation shields the user from extreme heat and slag associated with metallurgy

Impact – rubberized or gel cushioning for increased padding and vibration reduction during mechanic type work

Latex/Nitrile – typically used in first aid type situations involving blood born pathogens in blood or bodily fluids, have applications within a lab type atmosphere or sampling

Chemical – longer cuff and can be purchased in several chemical resistance levels, usage typically includes fuel, fertilizers, and pesticides

Electrical – dielectric properties and physical strength ensure safety and protection when working with electricity, typically worn with a leather out glove for cut protection and a moisture wicking glove liner



Puncture/Cut



Impact



Chemical



Welding



Latex/Nitrile



Electrical

NGFA Reference Corner

OSHA's Personal Protective Equipment 3151-12R 200

[CLICK HERE](#)

OSHA's 1915 Subpart I APP B, Personal Protective Equipment

[CLICK HERE](#)

OSHA's 1910.138 Hand Protection

[CLICK HERE](#)

More safety information at www.ngfa.org

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