

HAND PROTECTION

From a product standpoint, hand protection has evolved from primarily leather and cotton gloves to an industry where a wide assortment of materials is utilized. The materials provide cut, abrasion, heat, anti-vibration, back of hand, and chemical protection for today's worker.

Just as William Shakespeare's father made gloves in 16th century England using leather, much stayed the same for the next 400-500 years. Up to 1970, leather, cotton, and jersey fabrics represented the bulk of the industry's hand protection offerings.

The greatest transformations took place within the glove industry starting with the formation of OSHA. OSHA was founded in 1970 and its initial PPE standards, initiated as early as 1971 and still in place today, fueled the growth of personal protective equipment.

General Requirements (29 C.F.R. 1910.132)

- Based on the hazard assessment, the employer must select appropriate and properly fitting PPE for use by affected employees.
- Each employee who is required to use PPE must be trained in the proper use of the PPE and be retrained when necessary.

Hand Protection (29 C.F.R. 1919.138)

- Appropriate hand protection must be worn when hands are exposed to hazards such as skin absorption of harmful substances, severe cuts, lacerations or abrasions punctures, chemical or thermal burns, and harmful temperature extremes.
- Employers must base selection of hand protection on "an evaluation of the performance characteristics of the hand protection in relation to the tasks performed, duration of use and hazards presented."

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