

# At a Glance. EN 388:

## Modification of the Standard for Protective Gloves against Mechanical Risks.

With the publication of the updated standard EN 388:2016 in the Official Journal of the European Union, starting June 1, 2017, all protective gloves against mechanical risks must comply with the requirements of the new standard in order to be placed on the market. The updated standard contains a number of significant changes compared to the previous version EN 388:2003.

### CIRCULAR BLADE CUT RESISTANCE (COUPE TEST)

A new cut resistance test supplements the current four levels of performance to cover extremely cut-resistant materials. The previously conducted cutting test (Coupe Test) can still be performed. If the blade does not become blunt during the Coupe Test, this result is considered as a reference.

### CUT RESISTANCE TDM EN ISO 13997:1999

For materials with a high cut resistance, which cause blunting of the circular blade in the Coupe Test, the cut resistance procedure according to EN ISO 13997:1999 must be performed. Here, a straight blade, on which a certain force is applied, is moved over the test object. Variations in the cutting force create cuts of a certain length. The determined results lead to a classification of the performance

level, visualized with a letter from A to F. If gloves do not have the required cut resistance, it is indicated by an X in the fifth place in the performance levels under the pictogram. The circular blade test procedure can be performed upon request. The cut resistance test according to EN ISO 13997:1999 produces more accurate results because the blunting of the blade during the test is taken into account.

### PROTECTION AGAINST IMPACT, EN 13594:2015

The additional risk by an impact can be optionally tested or certified. A protective glove against mechanical risks may be also designed and constructed in such a way as to provide a specific impact protection, e.g. to protect the knuckles, the back of the hand or the palm. (Testing for an impact protection at the fingers is not possible.) Each area that offers impact protection must be tested independently and the gloves must meet Class 1 of EN 13594:2015, Table 7, at the minimum.

### LABELING & INFORMATION FROM MANUFACTURER

The labeling is expanded by an additional performance level for "cut resistance" and for "impact resistance", if applicable.

### EN 388:2016 – EXPLANATION OF EXAMPLES GIVEN

Example	Example 1: 3 4 4 3 E P	Example 2: 3 X 0 3 E	Example 3: 3 2 0 3 X
Abrasion resistance (6.1)	Performance level 3	Performance level 3	Performance level 3
Cut resistance (6.2)	Performance level 4	Test not performed or N/A	Performance level 2
Tear resistance (6.4)	Performance level 4	Performance level 1 not achieved	Performance level 1 not achieved
Puncture resistance (6.5)	Performance level 3	Performance level 3	Performance level 3
Cut resistance (6.3)	Performance level E	Performance level E	Test not performed
Impact protection	Existing	Test not performed	Test not performed

#### Disclaimer:

TÜV Rheinland LGA Products GmbH shall not assume liability for the content of this documentation. This documentation includes:

- General information only, without reference to a certain person or entity;
- Information that is not necessarily complete, detailed, accurate or up-to-date;
- No legal advice (for any legal advice, please always consult an expert lawyer).

Should we become aware of any errors, we will try to correct them.