

Standard EN 388: 2003 : Marking & Information

Gloves Giving Protection from Mechanical Risks

Scope

This standard applies to all kinds of protective gloves in respect of physical and mechanical aggressions caused by abrasion, blade cut, puncture and tearing.

Definitions and Requirements

Protection against mechanical hazards is expressed by a pictogram followed by four numbers (performance levels), each representing test performance against a specific hazard.



a b c d

The 'Mechanical Risks' pictogram is accompanied by a 4-digit code:

- **Resistance to abrasion:** based on the number of cycles required to abrade through the sample glove.
- **Blade cut resistance:** based on the number of cycles required to cut through the sample at a constant speed.
- **Tear resistance:** based on the amount of force required to tear the sample.
- **Puncture resistance:** based on the amount of force required to pierce the sample with a standard sized point.

In all cases, [0] indicates the lowest level of performance, as follows:

Test Items	Performance Level Rating					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
a. Abrasion resistance (cycles)	< 100	100	500	2000	8000	-
b. Blade cut resistance (factor)	< 1.2	1.2	2.5	5.0	10.0	20.0
c. Tear resistance (newton)	< 10	10	25	50	75	-
d. Puncture resistance (newton)	< 20	20	60	100	150	-

These performance levels must be prominently displayed alongside the pictogram on the packaging which immediately contains the gloves.