

Glove Glossary

ACCELERATORS

Chemicals added during the glove manufacturing process, used to control the physical properties of the latex film, include carbamates and thiurams.

ASTM

American Society for Testing and Materials – A volunteer organization which executes standards used to certify products for consumer purchase.

AQL – ACCEPTABLE QUALITY LEVEL

The AQL is the quality level that is the worst tolerable process average when a continuing series of lots is submitted for acceptance sampling. The lower the AQL number, the less defects allowed per sample size to fail.

CHLORINATION

A Process using chlorine to achieve a powder-free surface finish for a glove.

DOUBLE POLYMER COATING

A non chlorinated process, using polymer material for both inside and outside surfaces, to achieve a powder free surface finish for a glove.

ELONGATION

The number of times a glove can be stretched from its original length until it breaks – expressed in percentage, e.g., 800% elongation demonstrates a test dumbbell stretched eight times its original length before breaking.

EN

European Norm certification indicates compliances with the European Quality System Regulation (QSR)

- EN 388 Protection against mechanical risk
- EN 374 Protection against dangerous chemicals and micro-organisms
- EN 420 Describing general standards for protective gloves
- EN 455 Medical Gloves for single use
- EN 455 – 1 Specification for freedom of holes (barrier properties)
- EN 455 – 2 Specification for physical properties
- EN 455 – 3 Requirements and testing for biological evaluation (biological properties/labeling)
- EN 455 – 4 Requirements and testing for shelf life determination

FORMER

A ceramic glove mold used on the manufacturing line.

FDA 510K

Pre-market medical device approval issued by the United States Food & Drug Administration. Required for a medical glove to be imported and marketed in the United States.

HOLE

A hole found in a glove that is visible to the naked eye.

INSPECTION LEVEL

The criteria that identifies the number of sample pieces to be inspected in a given lot.

ISO

International Standards Organization – ISO is an international organization composed of national standards bodies from over 75 countries.

ISO 9001:2000

Quality Management System which specifies the audit requirements that will produce consistency in product quality; intended to meet or exceeds customer specifications; ultimately improving customer satisfaction.

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LATEX

An emulsion of rubber or plastic globules in water used in paints, adhesives, and various synthetic rubber products including gloves.

MODULUS

The force required to stretch the glove to a specific length of its original length, e.g., the MPa measured at 300% and 500% of a glove's elongation.

MONOMER

A single molecule that has the ability to combine with identical or similar molecules, a process also known as polymerization.

MPa – MEGA PASCALS

Unit of measure used to report tensile testing.

NITRILE

A synthetic material extracted from petroleum used in glove manufacturing.

NEOPRENE

Chloroprene rubber, also extracted from petroleum, raw material used in glove manufacturing.

PINHOLE

A minute hole found in a glove but not visible to the naked eye. Watertight tests are conducted to detect this size of hole.

POLYMER

A chain of many monomers.

POLYMERIZATION

A chemical reaction in which two or more molecules, or monomers, combine to form larger molecules, or polymers.

PREPOWDERED GLOVE

A glove that has powder coated on the surface, usually corn starch.

PROTEIN

A residual organic protein found in the latex base material.

PVC – POLY VINYL CHLORIDE

A chlorine based inexpensive plastic raw material used in glove manufacturing.

PSI – POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH

Unit of measure used to report tensile testing.

SPC – STATISTICAL PROCESS CONTROL

The application of statistical techniques to control a process.

SMOOTH SURFACE

The glove's surface is smooth, can be full glove or only at palm and cuff.

SYNTHETIC

A substance that is formulated or manufactured by a chemical process or by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring plant, animal, or mineral sources.

TENSILE

A measure of force at break per square area of material – expressed in mega-pascals (MPa) or pounds per square inch (PSI).

TEXTURED SURFACE

The glove's surface has a bisque finish, can increase dexterity, can be full surface or just applied to fingers or fingertips.

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THERMOPLASTIC ELASTOMERS

plastics capable of being repeatedly softened by increases in temperature and hardened by decreases in temperature, Generally a rubber-like substance which is easily deformed by a force but returns to its original shape.

UL – UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES

An international test organization that conducts testing and certifies entities to various standards.

VISUAL DEFECTS

Surface defects visible to the naked eye, e.g., non removable dirt, stain, holes, defective beading, pleating.

VULCANIZE

The process of treating rubber or rubber like materials with sulphur at high heat to improve elasticity and strength or to harden the material.

WATERTIGHT TEST

The test utilized to pass or fail the barrier integrity of a glove. A glove is filled with one liter of water, suspended and manipulated for two minutes to determine if the barrier is compromised by a pinhole defect.