



## National Grain and Feed Association

[www.ngfa.org](http://www.ngfa.org)

### NGFA Safety Tips: Glove Selection

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

#### Protecting Employees in the Workplace

Workplace hazards exist in many different forms (i.e., sharp edges, falling objects, flying sparks, chemicals and noise, to name a few). 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 work practice/administrative controls or engineering controls to manage or eliminate hazards to the greatest extent possible. For example, changing the way in which employees perform their work is a work practice/administrative control; building a barrier between the hazard and the employees is an engineering control.

When engineering, work practice and/or administrative controls are infeasible or do not provide sufficient protection, employers are to provide and direct employees to use personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE is worn to minimize exposure to a variety of hazards. Examples include gloves, foot and eye protection, protective hearing devices (e.g., earplugs, muffs), hard hats, respirators and full body suits.

#### The “Hazard Assessment”

Before an employer can decide which gloves to provide to employees, they are required first to perform an assessment to evaluate hazards inherent to the job duties. OSHA’s personal protective equipment standard [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 should begin with a walkthrough survey of the facility, noting potential hazards that are present in different work areas. 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 used efficiently in determining the proper types of gloves required at the worksite for a particular job task. The employer should become aware of the different types of gloves available and the levels of protection offered. Employers should consider selecting gloves that will provide a level of protection greater than the minimum required to protect employees from hazards. The workplace should be periodically reassessed for any changes in conditions, equipment or

## NGFA Safety Program

- 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.

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 their condition and age, should be included in the reassessment.

OSHA requires that employers document the hazard assessment 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.
- Identification of the document certifying completion of the hazard assessment.

**NOTE:** OSHA recommends that selection of gloves 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, used for many different levels of physical jobs.

**Puncture/Cut Resistant:** For use in specific jobs where hazards that can cause cuts, lacerations, and punctures likely are present.



**Puncture/Cut**



**Welding**

**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 work.



**Impact**



**Latex/Nitrile**

**Latex/Nitrile:** Typically used in first aid situations involving bloodborne pathogens or bodily fluids. Applications within first aid/medical and/or lab atmospheres.

**Chemical:** Longer cuff and can be purchased in several chemical-resistance levels. Usage typically includes fuel, fertilizers and pesticides.



**Chemical**



**Electrical**

**Electrical:** Dielectric properties and physical strength ensure safety and protection when working with electricity. Typically worn with a leather outer glove for cut protection and a moisture wicking glove liner.

## 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*  
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