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## American National Standard for Hand Protection Classification

**ANSI/ISEA 105-2016**  
Revision of ANSI/ISEA 105-2011

# **American National Standard for Hand Protection Classification**

Secretariat  
**International Safety Equipment Association**

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**American National Standards Institute, Inc.**

## **American National Standard**

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## Foreword (This Foreword is not part of American National Standard ANSI/ISEA 105-2016)

OSHA requires that employers select and require employees to use appropriate hand protection where there is workplace exposure to hazards such as chemical burns or severe cuts and lacerations. OSHA also mandates that such selection be based on an evaluation of performance characteristics of hand protection relative to the tasks being performed.

ANSI/ISEA 105-2016 is the latest revision of a voluntary industry consensus standard that was first published in 1999 and revised in 2005 and 2011. The document classifies a whole glove or material used in the construction of an occupational glove to help people understand glove performance data if they are not familiar with the details of the test methods and the results to be expected when testing. Such classifications can assist employers and product users in the appropriate specification and selection of gloves for specific workplace exposures. This document provides or refers to appropriate test methods for specified criteria and provides pass/fail criteria to allow users to interpret test results and determine if certain hand protection products meet their needs.

One of the major changes in this fourth edition of ANSI/ISEA 105 surrounds the determination of classification for cut-resistance. For purposes of classifying a glove to this standard, a single test method has been selected in an effort to provide consistent meaning of the ratings from the end-user perspective. In addition, the number of classification levels has been expanded to address the disparate gap among certain levels seen in earlier versions and to model the approach used in similar international standards.

Additional updates include the incorporation of a needlestick puncture test, recognizing that this is a common potential exposure for the medical, sanitation and recycling industries. Cited test methods have been updated throughout the standard to reflect the state of the art in materials performance and technology and to harmonize with other existing standards, where possible.

This revision was prepared by members of the Hand Protection Group of the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA). The following companies were members of the group at the time of the approval of the standard:

Ansell Protective Products  
DSM Dyneema  
Ergodyne  
D3O  
DuPont Personal Protection  
HexArmor  
Honeywell Safety Products  
Kimberly-Clark Professional  
Lakeland Industries, Inc.

Magid Glove and Safety Mfg. Co. LLC  
MCR Safety  
National Safety Apparel  
OccuNomix International LLC  
Protective Industrial Products Inc.  
Radians Inc.  
Saf-T-Gard International  
World Fibers, Inc.

This standard was approved using consensus procedures prescribed by the American National Institute. The following organizations were contacted prior to the approval of this standard. Inclusion in this list does not necessarily imply that the organization concurred with the submittal of the proposed standard to ANSI.

Apollo Performance Gloves  
Arauca North America  
Arcadis-US  
Associated Milk Producers, Inc.  
Atlas Contractors  
Boise Cascade  
Cudd Energy Services  
FNF Inc.  
International Personnel Protection, Inc.  
Leggett  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
MAPA Professional

Milwaukee Tool  
National Institute for Standards and Technology  
National Waste & Recycling Association  
Noble Corporation  
Schlumberger  
Stony Brook University Hospital  
SW Research Inc.  
UL, LLC  
United Scrap Metal, Inc.  
WestRock  
Waste Management  
Youngstown Glove

Inquiries related to the standard and suggestions to improve the document can be emailed to [isea@safetysystem.org](mailto:isea@safetysystem.org).

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# American National Standard for Hand Protection Classification

## 1. Scope

This standard addresses the classification and testing of hand protection for specific performance properties related to chemical and industrial applications. Hand protection includes gloves, mittens, partial gloves, or other items covering the hand or a portion of the hand that are intended to provide protection against or resistance to a specific hazard.

This standard provides performance ranges for many different properties based on standardized test methods. Descriptions of the test methods used in this standard are provided in Appendix C. Different levels of performance are specified for each property with zero (0) representing the minimal protection or none at all.

The standard does not address protection from electric shock, ionizing or non-ionizing radiation, every type of thermal exposure and harmful temperature extreme, and every type of exposure to chemicals, biological agents, or other hazardous substances. This standard does not address protection for welding, emergency response applications or fire fighter applications.

Recommended guidelines for hand protection selection are provided in Appendix D. Appendix E provides information on other properties not covered in this standard.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to provide manufacturers with a mechanism to classify their products for specified areas of glove performance. The information from this testing and classification can be used to help users to select appropriate hand protection.

**DISCLAIMER:** Manufacturers of hand protection items determine which tests apply to their products in order to represent a product's performance to individual test classifications of this standard.

Representations by manufacturers regarding a product's compliance with a particular test

criterion do not mean, nor should it be implied, that the product meets any other test selection criteria unless specifically stated.

## 3. Definitions

These definitions provide the meanings of the terms in the context of this standard. Many of the terms have broader meanings in other technical and non-technical contexts.

### 3.1 Definitions of Glove Responses to Stress

**resistance** (to a stressor): A property of a glove that permits it to withstand change when stressed.

**protection** (from a stressor): A property that prevents or reduces deleterious effects on the wearer of a glove when stressed.

**NOTE:** The distinction between resistance and protection cannot always be clearly drawn. For example, if the stressor is a sharp edge, cut resistance is a property that reduces damage both to the glove and to the wearer.

### 3.2 Definitions Related to Chemical Effects

Chemical resistance and protection from chemicals are strongly interrelated. Of the three effects of chemicals defined below, one relates to the effects on the gloves and the other two represent routes by which chemicals can reach the wearer.

**degradation:** A deleterious change in one or more properties of a glove due to contact with a chemical. Rubber gloves may swell, soften and weaken; plastic gloves may shrink, stiffen, harden, and crack when flexed.

**penetration:** The flow of a chemical through a glove on a non-molecular level through porous materials, seams, and pinholes or other imperfections in the barrier film. The gaps in the barrier are visible, although a magnifying glass or microscope may be needed to see them. Pathways for penetration may occur as the result