Personal Protective Equipment

All About Cut Resistant Glove Levels

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The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) states that 143,900 hand injuries were ***reported in 2015***, the latest data available. They further note that the average time away from work was five days. Yet OSHA reports that ***70% of workers*** aren't wearing protective gloves. It's clear that more can be done to protect worker's hands to avoid these injuries.

One step toward reducing injuries is selecting the right glove cut level for the task at hand. This requires a close review of the cut level needed, followed by selecting just the right glove that minimizes the cut risk while maximizing flexibility for the task.

ANSI/ISEA Cut Levels

The American National Standard for Hand Protection Selection Criteria, ANSI/ISEA 105, uses a nine level scale of cut resistance. The level of cut resistance extends from 0 to 6,000 grams based on tests by a tomodynamometer (TDM Method) which moves a blade across the material. The higher the weight required to cut the materials, the higher is the cut resistance rating.

A1: 200 to 499 grams to cut. We don't recommend this level for cut protection.

A2: 500 to 999 grams to cut. Light cut hazards.

A3: 1,000 to 1,499 grams to cut. Light to medium cut hazards.

A4: 1,500 to 2,199 grams to cut. Medium cut hazards.

A5: 2,200 to 2,999 grams to cut. Medium to heavy cut hazards.

A6: 3,000 to 3,999 grams to cut. Heavy cut hazards.

A7: 4,000 to 4,999 grams to cut. High cut hazards.

A8: 5,000 to 5,999 grams to cut. Very high cut hazards.

A9: 6,000+ grams to cut. Extreme cut hazards.

Find the Right Gloves for Every Situation

MCR Safety has developed a search tool to help you find exactly the right gloves. Select the score value you need and it will provide the gloves that meet your requirements. See "***MCR Safety Glove Material Search by CE/ANSI Score***."

Previously featured on MCR Safety's blog.

For MCR Safety's full line of gloves, please visit MSCDirect.com.