



# CHOOSING THE RIGHT CUT PROTECTION GLOVES

## (ADVICE FOR UPDATED INTERNATIONAL GLOVE STANDARDS)

There is a lot of important stuff in your hand and your hands are integral with how you do your job and how you interact with your environment.

Lacerations are the second most common workplace injury in Australia. When glass cuts, it only stops when it gets to the bone. There are a lot of tendons, nerves and blood vessels that the glass can damage if you cut your hands at work. Cut tendons can reduce grip strength for the rest of your life. Severed nerves cause weakness, twitching, numbness paralysis, and intense chronic pain for the rest of your life. Even small cuts can lead to infections, sometimes leading to amputation and blood loss can cause fainting, shock, tissue damage and even death.

Ensure you protect your hands at work by using the right PPE, and by using it properly.

### International Glove Standards

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The Australian and New Zealand standard AS/NZS 2161.3 runs parallel to European Standard EN388.

EN388 was revised in 2016 and in addition to the previous protection it now includes a classification of **Cut Resistance** and **Impact Protection** to further help employers decide on the most appropriate glove option for the many different job requirements of employees. These new classifications are particularly useful for the Glass and Window Industry and will most likely result in employers recommending differently rated gloves for different jobs.

The EN388 2016 labelling requirements include the EN388 Logo followed by up to **six** position-specific numbers or letters, which indicate test performance ratings (previously there were only four position specific numbers).

For alpha ratings, A is the lowest and F the highest resistance to cut. Numeric ratings run from 1 (the lowest) to four or five.

Labelling positioning is as follows:



Position 1 (a) – Abrasion Resistance (rating 1-4)

Position 2 (b) – Blade Cut resistance (rating 1-5 or X) - see note below

Position 3 (c) – Tear Resistance (rating 1 to 4)

Position 4 (d) – Puncture Resistance (rating 1-4)

**Position 5 (e) – ISO Cut Resistance (rating A to F) for high cut resistance materials NEW**

**Position 6 (f) – Impact protection (P for pass, no marking for failure or no test done) NEW**



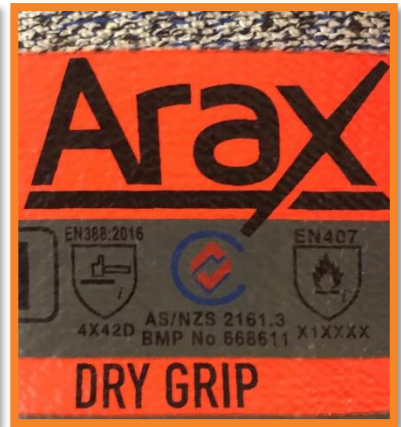
**NOTE:** Gloves that come out with an “x” in the position 2 of the EN388-2016 identifies that the fabric on that particular glove was not subjected to the coup test as they were identified as being the type of material that would damage the blades sharpness if subjected to the coup test. Therefore, in this case, Blade Cut resistance is replaced by ISO cut resistance (position5).

**Example of a Glove Rating**

ARAX Gloves – Dry Grip

**Rating 4X42D**

- Abrasion Resistance 4
- Blade Cut resistance X (go to position 5 for additional cut resistance)
- Tear Resistance 4,
- Puncture Resistance 2,
- EN ISO Cut Resistance D



**Explanation of the New Performance ratings**

New Rating	Protection Level	Typical Tasks
A	Minimal	Warehouse work General handling
B	Low	Glass repair Metal part and component assembly Light metal presses
C	Moderate	Handling of Glass or Metal sheets that have been edge treated. Glass manufacturing Assembly of hardware Handling of Raw materials
D	Moderate to High	Metal parts and components assembly Handling glass mainly using glass lifting equipment. Machine tool operation Sheet metals and metalwork
E High Cut Hazards	High	Waste handing (recycling and sorting glass, or other metal pieces) Handling heavy loads and metal edges Handling glass sheets or shard-edged objects Metal sheet handling Cutting of dry, painted or galvanised metal pieces



## SAFETY BULLETIN

F Extreme Cut Hazards	Extreme	Heavy final assembly / Metal press work Machining and grinding Glass cutting Cutting tables and clean-cut glass edges
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Other considerations are the flexibility and ergonomic capacity of the gloves. Gloves need to give a high level of dexterity and comfort whilst providing maximum protection to the hand. If the glove classification will hinder the work, it defeats the glove's purpose and may lead to accidents.

The level of grip of the glove is another factor to consider while choosing a proper glove for your workers. Gloves must provide excellent handling and grip, in both wet and dry conditions, and enable your workers to perform handling tasks quickly and efficiently whilst still protecting their hands. The gloves must also allow your worker to handle large pieces of glass and switch between many different tasks without changing or removing gloves.

### What this means for your business

The previously recommended cut rating of 4 or 5 glove is no longer being labelled/used. Cut Protection Rating is now defined by six levels indicated by a letter A to F in accordance with the European Standard. Therefore, AGWA recommends always wearing level **E (high cut hazards)** or **F (extreme cut hazards)** cut-protection gloves when working with glass. To help you decide on the correct glove for your business needs please refer to the typical task listing on the Performance Rating Table on Page 2.

Alternatively, if your glove is rated in American standard, we recommend always to wear gloves with a rating scale of A4-A9.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS

AGWA highly recommend members implement the following:

- Always wear gloves when handling glass or windows
- Use the correct glove for the task being performed.
- Ensure gloves are the correct fit for maximum protection.
- Check gloves for damage/ wear and tear at the end of each day and replace if necessary.
- Store gloves in a clean dry environment so they are ready for the next use.

**ALWAYS TEST A GLOVE'S FIT FOR PURPOSE BEFORE YOU DECIDE ON A BRAND OR STYLE**

**ENSURE YOU SUPPLY GLOVES THAT ARE THE CORRECT SIZE.**

**WEARING GLOVES THAT ARE TOO SMALL OR TOO BIG IS A HAZARD ITSELF**