







THE ROLE OF EU REGULATIONS WHEN CHOOSING LABORATORY GLOVES

When it comes to selecting single-use gloves for laboratory research applications, it is important to recognize that while medical gloves protect from blood borne pathogens, they are not necessarily subjected to certification in line with PPE regulations (Personal Protective Equipment)*. PPE Cat III gloves are designed to protect workers and researchers. The gloves undergo chemical resistance testing and are audited by a notified body on a regular basis. By selecting the appropriate glove for the application, researchers are better protected from chemical and biological hazards.

Glove Category	PPE Cat III	Medical Grade
Marking	EN ISO 374-1/Type A  UVWXYZ EN ISO 374-5  EN ISO 374-1/Type B  XYZ EN ISO 374-5  VIRUS EN ISO 374-1/Type C  CE 0493	
Intended Purpose	To protect workers and researchers against irreversible or mortal risk, chemical splashes, and microorganisms.	To protect the patient and prevent cross-contamination between doctor and patient.
Conformance to standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EN ISO 374: rates the barrier integrity of gloves against known chemical and biological hazards. EN 420: general requirements for protective gloves Audits by an external, independent or notified body of the manufacturing site on a regular basis 	EN 455: qualifies gloves to be used in healthcare and patient care. This standard test method does not require a notified body or gloves to be tested against any chemicals.
Difference in marking	4-digit numeric code identifying the notified body, accompanies the CE marking	Self-certification, no number accompanying the CE mark

Conclusion

When a glove conforms to EN 455 it is intended as protection against infection risks in healthcare applications, but it is not tested for chemical resistance. Having additional EN ISO 374 testing adds value to laboratory researchers with exposure to a variety of chemicals. In addition to protecting workers from potential contamination involving bloodborne pathogens, EN ISO 374 ensures measured, proven protection from common chemical hazards.

*Some gloves carry dual certification i.e. EN 455 as well as EN ISO 374/EN 420 which means their use is intended for both medical and PPE purposes.