



The new ANSI cut-protection standards...

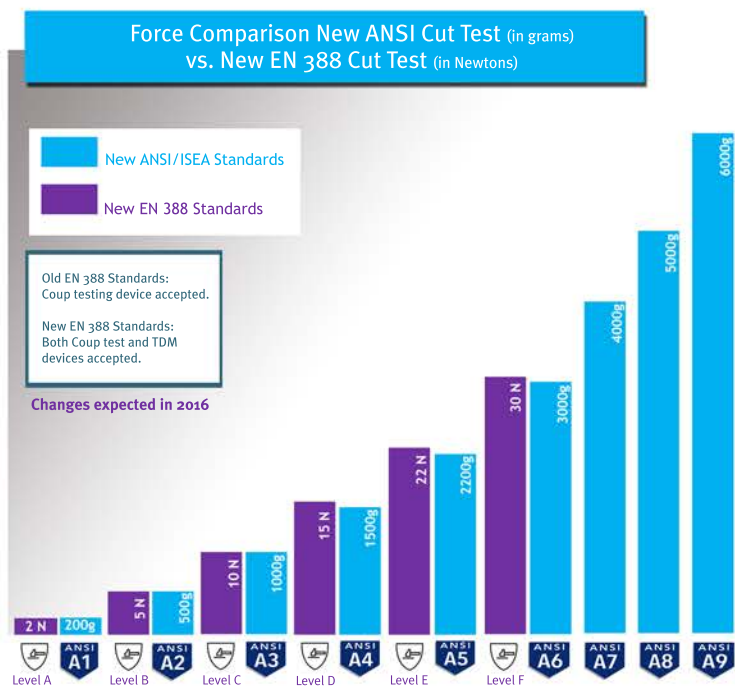
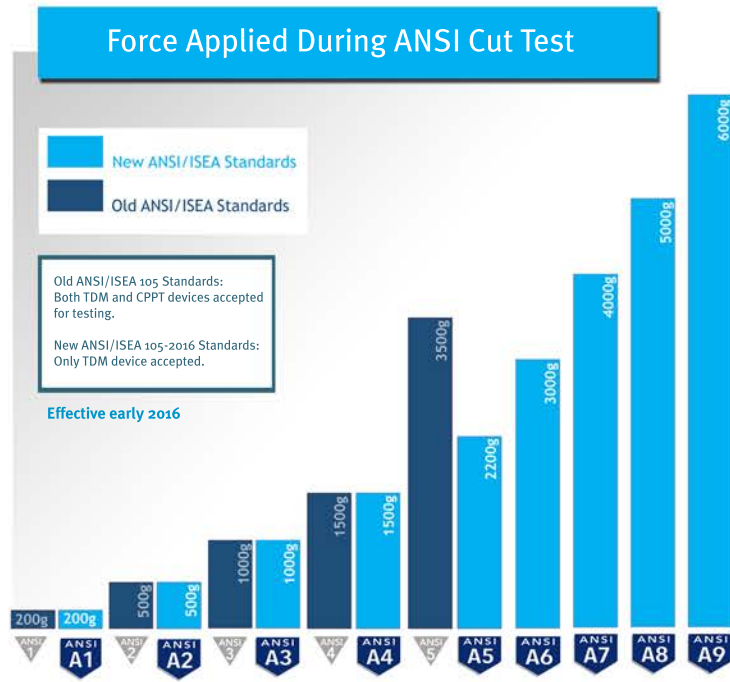
What really matters And what matters *even more*

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) have released new cut standards for safety gloves, known as ANSI/ISEA 105-2016.¹ These standards were developed, in part, to consolidate testing methods and eliminate large gaps that previously existed in cut levels for protective hand equipment.

Hand injuries, including lacerations and punctures, represent 20 percent of all work-related incidents in the U.S., accounting for an economic impact of nearly 1.25 billion USD in workers comp claims, lost time on-site and other related expenses. Further research among safety managers conducted in conjunction with the American Society of Safety Engineers, indicates that not wearing gloves due to lack of dexterity, grip and comfort remains the primary reason hand injuries occur on the job – making the selection of proper hand protection critical for workplace safety programs.²

What matters: The standards have changed

Currently, North America operates under the ANSI/ISEA cut rating system, while the Personal Protective Equipment industry in Europe, South America and much of Asia follows the EN 388 standard. Although the new standards for both ANSI/ISEA and EN aren't interchangeable, this is the first step in eliminating confusion between the two and moving towards a global cut rating system.



TECHNICAL CHANGES:

- Moving forward, ANSI/ISEA 105-2016 will use only the TDM device, eliminating variable data across multiple machines.
- Most testing methods for ANSI/ISEA 105-2016 will remain the same except reducing the distance the testing blade travels from 25mm to 20mm
- The EN standard will use the Coup testing device, unless certain dulling materials cannot be cut in 60 cycles. In such cases, method EN ISO 13997 will be used with the TDM device, which is the same as the new ANSI/ISEA standard.

Understanding the *real* implications of the new cut protection rating standards...

What matters more: Think beyond cut protection levels...

Although the new standards for ANSI/ISEA and EN primarily address cut protection, neither should be used as the sole criteria when selecting hand protection – other important factors include abrasion resistance, dexterity, longevity and comfort. Studies indicate that 92 percent of hand-related incidents are avoidable –but hand injuries can't be prevented unless gloves are being worn in real working conditions.³

Achieving cut test scores that qualify for classifications above the new ANSI/ISEA level A4 can require the introduction of materials that add stiffness, reduce dexterity and cause skin irritation. That's why proper glove selection should only use cut levels as a guideline, and start with the analysis of actual workplace cut hazards.



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¹ ANSI/ISEA 105-2016,

<http://webstore.ansi.org/RecordDetail.aspx?sku=ANSI%2fISEA+105-2016>

² 2015 ASSE Study

³ Zero Excuses www.zero-excuses-protection.com

