

# Tools for Life – Weekly Health & Safety Meeting



## Home Healthy - Home Safe

Date: August 2023

### Understanding ASTM/ANSI Glove Cut Rating System: A Guide to Hand Protection

When it comes to hand safety, wearing the right gloves is crucial. In recent years, a standardized system called the ASTM/ANSI glove cut rating system has been developed to help assess the cut resistance of gloves. In this safety meeting, we will explain this rating system in simple terms. Understanding the ASTM/ANSI glove cut rating system can empower you to choose the appropriate gloves for various tasks and protect your hands effectively.

**HEALTHY OR SAFETY REMINDER:** Stay hydrated! Proper hydration is crucial for your well-being, especially during hot weather or physical activity. Remember drink water regularly to prevent dehydration. Listen to your body's thirst signals, and don't wait until your thirsty to drink water. Carry a reusable water bottle with you as a constant reminder to stay hydrated throughout the day.

#### Why Hand Protection Matters:

Our hands are vulnerable to cuts and injuries, especially in certain industries or during activities that involve sharp objects, machinery, or tools. Wearing gloves is an essential preventive measure to minimize the risk of hand injuries. Gloves provide a barrier between our skin and potential hazards, reducing the likelihood of cuts, lacerations, and other hand-related accidents.

#### The ASTM/ANSI Glove Cut Rating System:

The ASTM/ANSI glove cut rating system provides a standardized way to measure the cut resistance of gloves. It classifies gloves into different levels based on their ability to withstand cutting forces. The system uses a scale of A1 to A9, with A1 indicating the lowest cut resistance and A9 representing the highest. The higher the rating, the better the glove's ability to protect against cuts.

#### Factors Considered in the Rating System:

The ASTM/ANSI glove cut rating system considers various factors to determine a glove's cut resistance level. These factors include the material used in the glove construction, the thickness of the material, and the overall design. Gloves made with high-performance materials like Kevlar® or stainless steel mesh tend to offer superior cut resistance compared to gloves made from standard materials like cotton or leather.

#### Selecting the Right Glove for Your Needs:

Choosing the appropriate glove cut rating depends on the specific tasks you perform. Consider the level of cut hazards you encounter, such as handling sharp tools, working with glass or metal, or operating machinery with sharp edges. For lower-risk tasks, gloves with lower cut ratings (e.g., A1 to A3) may suffice. However, for higher-risk activities, opt for gloves with higher cut ratings (e.g., A4 to A9) for optimal hand protection.

#### Additional Glove Properties to Consider:

While the cut rating is essential, other glove properties should also be considered. Factors such as dexterity, grip, comfort, and durability play crucial roles in ensuring the gloves perform well and provide adequate protection. When selecting gloves, it's important to find the right balance between cut resistance and other functional qualities based on your specific needs.

#### Conclusion:

Understanding the ASTM/ANSI glove cut rating system empowers you to make informed decisions when selecting gloves for hand protection. By considering the cut resistance level appropriate for your tasks and considering other factors like dexterity and comfort, you can ensure optimal hand safety. Remember, wearing the right gloves is a simple yet effective measure that significantly reduces the risk of hand injuries, allowing you to work with confidence and protect your hands for a safer, more productive future.

#### Discussion Points/Quiz Questions:

1. Which Apollo Industrial Safety and Health program covers gloves or PPE? AISH 10.
2. Does Apollo have a minimum cut rating for gloves used by Sheet Metal and Piping workers?
3. What does this project/Division have for cut rated gloves?