

The new EN 420.

EN ISO 21420:2020 - Protective gloves - general requirements.

This standard specifies the general requirements and relevant test procedures for glove design and construction, innocuousness, comfort and efficiency, as well as the marking and information supplied by the manufacturer applicable to all protective gloves. Gloves and hand protectors such as mittens, pot holders and arm protection are also covered by the new standard.

The final draft FprEN ISO 21420:2019 has been submitted to the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) for final approval. The final version will replace EN 420:2003+A1:2009 without a transitional period on 30 September 2020.

It is the responsibility of the manufacturers and distributors to ensure the sustained conformity of their personal protective equipment (PPE) with the state of the art. As soon as the new standard has been published, manufacturers have a duty under Regulation 2016/425 to verify independently whether their product conforms with the applicable requirements and to perform any necessary inspections and adjustments in accordance with the new standard. TÜV Rheinland provides reliable support with inspections to ensure that your products remain state of the art.

The standard includes the following new provisions:

INNOCUOUSNESS

The materials from which the gloves are made must not adversely affect the health or hygiene of users. Under the foreseeable conditions of use, the materials should not release any substances that are generally known to be toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic, allergenic, toxic for reproduction, corrosive, sensitising or irritant. In view of this, tests for the following substances have been added to the previous tests for pH and chromium (VI) content:

HEALTH RISK	PRESENCE IN THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS
Nickel release	All metallic materials (e.g. buttons, attachments) with skin contact
Azodyes	All dyed textiles and leather
DMFa	Polyurethane (PU coating)
PAH	Rubber and plastic-based materials

MINIMAL GLOVE DIMENSIONS

There are no longer any minimal glove length requirements. Exception: If specific standards (e.g. welding or fire fighting gloves) require a minimum length, this must be inspected and complied with.

ELECTROSTATIC PROPERTIES

Pictogram 2415 of ISO 7000 can be used for gloves that meet the requirements of EN 16350 Protective gloves – Electrostatic properties. In addition, test conditions and user information must be provided in the manufacturer information.

MARKING

It is now a mandatory requirement for every protective glove to be labelled with a date of manufacture and / or other means of batch tracking. Since the planned performance of the glove can be significantly affected by ageing, an appropriate expiry date with month and year must also be shown after the hourglass icon in accordance with PPE Regulation 2016/425. We have no reference to studies on the expiration time of glove materials; for this reason, the service life specified should be the manufacturer's actual durability guarantee for the product (regardless of use). Alternatively, the date of manufacture must be specified together with possible ageing parameters and their influence on product quality.

INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED ON REQUEST

At the consumer's request, the manufacturer / distributor must provide a list of substances contained in the glove which are known to cause allergies. Annex G of the standard contains a list of substances, or families of substances, which are known allergens that may be found in gloves.

SUMMARY

- Type examination certificates issued by TÜV Rheinland remain valid.
- It is your responsibility as the manufacturer/distributor to ensure that your product conforms to the state of the art and, if necessary, provide evidence that additional tests have been performed in accordance with the new EN ISO 21420.
- Your product labelling and technical documentation must be updated in accordance with PPE Regulation 2016/425.

WE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO SUPPORT YOU WITH THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW STANDARD

- Innocuousness inspection for your protective gloves (chemical parameters)
- Inspection for substances which are known allergens in accordance with Annex G of FprEN ISO 21420:2019 (document review and chemical testing)
- Inspection of manufacturer labelling and information
- Complete inspection and recertification of your protective gloves

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