A new version of the glove standard EN 388: Protection Against Mechanical Risks has been published, superceding EN 388:2003. This only affects new product certification and will not apply retrospectively. Gloves may continue to be sold under both versions of the standard until 2023, when, under the new PPE Regulation, their certification will need to be renewed and that will have to be to the latest version of the standard. One of the changes relates specifically to cut protection performance. This is happening because a large performance variance can exist for gloves considered to have a high cut-resistance (EN 388 Cut Level 4 and 5).

The current method used to test cut-resistance for EN 388 is not ideal for gloves featuring liners blended with steel and glass as the test blade can rapidly become blunt. Now, other data is being considered to provide an additional cut performance indicator - data from the ISO 13997 test.

The Coupe Cut Test uses a counter rotating blade under a fixed load moving back and forth across the surface, while the new ISO test uses a straight edged blade making a single pass to which a variable force can be applied. The Coupe Test has been revised, limiting the maximum number of passes the blade makes to 60 whether it has cut though the fabric or not. This is to mitigate the effects of blunting the blade, but gloves made from materials likely to blunt it will potentially, when recertified, record a lower cut resistance index and performance.

Under the new method, if the sample blunts the blade during the 60 passes it is mandatory to then test it using the ISO 13997 cut resistance method, and this is the result used to assess the gloves' performance. Cut levels under the ISO test are defined A to F, increasing in levels of protection determined by the force applied. Level E has sometimes been said to correspond to Level 5 but the new EN 388 states there is no correlation between the Coupe Test Levels and ISO Test Levels.

Read more on Clad Safety's Safety Standards Guide **here.**

EN 388:2016

Level	EN ISO Cut Resistance
A	2 Newtons 204gms
B	5 Newtons 509gms
C	10 Newtons 1020gms
D	15 Newtons 1530gms
E	22 Newtons 2243gms
F	30 Newtons 3059gms
Optional Standard	
P	Passed optional standard for Impact Resistance

3 5 4 3 X P

ABRASION RESISTANCE · CUT RESISTANCE · TEAR RESISTANCE · PUNCTURE RESISTANCE