Standardisation for protective gloves: major changes are in progress - p.6
CTC proposes Expertise and Global Quality Solution!

Markets are more and more globalized and consumers needs more and more specifications. Armed with expertise that began in 1899, CTC has become a market leader through a one-of-a-kind research centre for leather, footwear, leather goods and gloves.

CTC provides solutions for manufacturers, distributors and brands, in the fashion, luxury goods, sport, and personal protective equipment (PPE) markets, as well as in the environmental sector.

CTC’s customer-focused services include all the steps required for design, manufacturing, sourcing and distribution, covering raw materials, such as leather and textiles, components such as metal pieces, or finished products such as fashion accessories or items of clothing.

Do not hesitate to contact CTC team if you need any support.

Enjoy reading!
Normalisation

GB standards: guidelines to enter the Chinese market.

In June, on the initiative of CTC, several French brands and companies had attended a seminar, in Lyon and Paris, about the GB Standards. Mrs YU, Technical Leader and Senior Engineer of the Technical Committee China GB Standards TC305, presented the guidelines to enter the Footwear and Leather Goods Chinese market.

CTC regularly offers to its clients the possibility to attend technical seminars to improve their knowledge about technical standards or product developments.

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IULTCS: the 34th Congress in Chennai, India

The next Congress of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies, which has the task to encourage and develop the interchange of knowledge and experience between leather technologists and chemists worldwide, will be in Chennai from the 5th to the 8th of February 2017.

It will be jointly organized by the Indian affiliate to IULTCS – Indian Leather Technologists Association (ILTA) and CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute.

www.iultcs2017.org

Communications

CTC Groupe in China: follow us on Wechat!

In order to keep in touch with its clients and to provide the best and latest information about its services, CTC Groupe invites them to connect on its Wechat Account.

Audit

Anne-Laure Lepretre, auditor for LWG

Anne-Laure Lepretre, Leather Consultant for CTC Groupe, has been admitted as an auditor by the Executive Committee of the Leather Working Group.

allepretre@ctcgroupe.com

As a reminder, the Leather Working Group, has developed a standardised environmental auditing process to cover all the essential elements of environmental best practice management in a tannery. All LWG audits are carried out by independent auditors who are authorised by Leather Working Group to undertake audits using the LWG Environmental Audit Protocol.

More information on www.leatherworkinggroup.com

CTC services

A new version for CTC Groupe website: ctcgroupe.com

CTC has launched a new version of its website. Redesigned to present CTC activities in France and on the international stage, ctcgroupe.com allows a browsing by market or by service. Its graphic design and ergonomics facilitate the access to the information.

Developed in a Responsive design, ctcgroupe.com can be read on computer, tablet or smartphone. The website is in French, English and Chinese.

www.ctcgroupe.com

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Standards

Standardisation for protective gloves: major changes are in progress

After an uneventful decade, the standards governing safety gloves have now embarked on a period of major changes. Several revisions are under way and new standards have been or will be published. Here is an overview of the key changes.

CEN–ISO AGREEMENT

The first change is of a general nature. Since the early 1990s, the CEN (European Committee for Standardisation), acting through TC 162 WG8 (protective gloves working group), has been developing and publishing numerous harmonised standards which provide a presumption of conformity to the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Directive 89/686/EEC. These documents form the foundation for ensuring all safety gloves that enter the European market are compliant, and for awarding them the CE mark.

On a global scale, the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) has never until now issued any standards for safety gloves. In 2013, a special working group was set up, ISO/TC 94/SC13 WG8. For over a year now, these two groups, CEN/TC 162 WG8 and ISO/TC 94/SC13 WG8 have been working in collaboration and gradually revising all the European standards (EN) and re-issuing them as international standards (EN ISO). This work will be facilitated by the fact that both these groups are managed by CTC.

This change confirms the European influence on this market, and ought to encourage trade through the publication of a common reference.

EN 420

Protective gloves: General requirements and test methods

This standard was last amended in 2009. Work to revise it further began at the end of 2015, as part of the collaboration between CEN and ISO, and it will in future be known as EN ISO 21420.

The changes currently being proposed are:
- glove size: changes in requirements and test methods;
- ergonomics: more consideration to be given to this aspect;
- innocuousness.

The market has evolved greatly since 2009, in particular with the introduction of the European REACh regulation, and safety has never been more important. The EN ISO 13688 standard (Protective Clothing - General Requirements), which is to clothing what EN 420 is to gloves, has been revised to incorporate the new requirements of REACh. Likewise, the future EN ISO 21420 will still include pH and hexavalent chromium, as well as other substances such as aromatic amines. Following a request from Germany, dimethylformamide (DMFa) will most likely also feature. The introduction of EN 16778 (Protective Gloves – The determination of dimethylformamide in gloves) in the near future will help.

EN 388

Protective gloves against mechanical risks

Work on revising EN 388 began five years ago and hit several obstacles, in particular the disappearance of the materials and consumables needed to conduct the tests. A new type of emery paper had to be found for the abrasion tests. Several inter-laboratory tests were needed to ensure that all changes were relevant and could be applied by the laboratories. The work required extensive discussions and harmonisation with the CEN, which further delayed the project.

The revised standard will incorporate many changes:
- new abrasive paper and new procedure for verifying the adhesive papers used for the test;
- improvements to the cut resistance test;
- mandatory use of the TDM test (EN ISO 13997) for gloves made of materials that dulled the blades during the basic cut resistance test;
- cuffs taken into account;
- new option for impact absorbent gloves;
- introduction of new markings: the mechanical risk pictogram will be used with four figures and a letter to indicate performance level.

The formal vote (last stage in the approval of the draft changes) will take place in the second quarter of 2016. Publication after the summer of 2016 seems highly likely.
EN 374-3
Permeation: process by which a chemical substance passes through an item of PPE. This test method is used to determine the time it takes for a standardised flow of chemical products to cross the protective barrier created by the PPE. The standard was officially withdrawn at the end of 2015, and replaced by the new EN 16523-1. There is now no difference in the methods for testing the permeation resistance of footwear, clothing and gloves.

EN 374-2
Revised and published in 2015, this standard describes the test methods for assessing the water- and airtightness of gloves.

prEN ISO 374-1
This standard will be the first published under the Vienna Agreement between ISO and the CEN. It sets out the technical and marking requirements for gloves providing protection against chemical substances. The revision includes several changes: new named chemical substances, a new permeation test (EN 16523-1), new glove categorisation (three levels), new marking, compulsory degradation testing (EN 374-4) etc. It will be put to a formal vote in the first quarter of 2016 and will probably be published in the fourth quarter of 2016.

prEN ISO 374-5
The old EN 374-1 covered chemical and biological risk. For greater clarification, the decision was made to differentiate between gloves for these two types of risk. The future part 5, issued under the Vienna Agreement, will set out the performance requirements for micro-organisms. A viral permeation resistance test (ISO 16604) has been included, along with water and airtightness tests (EN 374-2). It will be put to a formal official vote in the first quarter of 2016 and will probably be published in the fourth quarter of 2016.

prEN ISO 18889
This proposed standard establishes the requirements for resistance to pesticides. The preparation work has been carried out mainly in the USA and is based on a new cumulative permeation standard (prEN ISO 19918). This test method measures the amount of substance that passes through an item of PPE. This new topic will soon be put to public consultation, and there is unlikely to be any official publication before the end of 2017.

CONCLUSION
A lot of changes have been taking place, and this review is far from exhaustive. Other standards e.g. EN 407 - Protective gloves against thermal risk (heat and/or fire) will also be changing in the near future. These revisions will undoubtedly create work for manufacturers, who will have to implement new certification processes, new methods and new prototypes etc. Since all these standards are interconnected, it is genuinely difficult to take account of all the amendments and understand how a change in one document will affect another. The standardisation and CE marking experts at CTC are at your disposal to provide information and assistance, and to make your job easier.
Network

Safety Footwear Worldwide by CTC

Here is a map of the countries which are covered by CTC to provide compliance certificates for established standards.

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**Europe**
- **European Union** / Switzerland / Norway / Iceland / Morocco / Algeria / Tunisia / Turkey
  - EN ISO 20345/20346/20347:2011
  - CTC CE Marking Certificate

**Russia / Ukraine / Kazakhstan**
- TR TC 019/2011
  - CTC Test Reports + CTC Partner Certification

**Israel**
- EN ISO 20345/20346/20347:2011
  - CTC Test Certificate + CTC Partner Certificate

**Korea**
- KOSHA Standard KSC Mark
  - (pre-testing by CTC) + CTC Partner Testing + CTC Partner Factory Audit

**USA**
- ASTM F2413-11 Protective (Safety) Toe Cap Footwear
- ASTM F2892-11 Soft Toe Protective Footwear (Non-Safety / Non-Protective Toe)
  - CTC Test Reports (no certification needed)

**Malaysia**
  - CTC Test Reports + Factory auditing by CTC Partner

**Singapore**
  - Testing / Certification with CTC Partner

**Koweit**
- CTC Test Reports

**Israel**
- EN ISO 20345/20346/20347:2011
  - CTC Test Certificate + CTC Partner Certificate

**Malaysia**
  - CTC Test Reports + Factory auditing by CTC Partner

**South Africa**
  - CTC Test Reports + CTC Partner Certificate

**Australia / New Zealand**
  - CTC Test Reports + Factory Audit by CTC Partner

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= CTC tests reports or certificates accepted
= CTC tests accepted + additional third party certification or factory auditing with CTC Partner
= Tests to be done locally with CTC Partner, CTC supports you on the certification procedure
Audit

Footwear Factory Assessment

With professional and experienced verifiers based strategically worldwide, CTC offers Footwear Factory Assessments to secure your manufacturing or your global sourcing more responsibly.

The footwear sector is one of the largest in the consumer goods industry generating growth and welfare in several countries. However there are some issues that may impact the efficiency of the factory or impact the relationships between the factory and the buyer. Some difficulty may appear about quality of the products, labour management, environmental aspects or health and safety in the factory. Running a specific audit for each of this 4 topics is quite sophisticated, time consuming and cost a lot.

CTC FOOTWEAR FACTORY ASSESSMENT

So based on its more than 100 years of involvement in the footwear industry worldwide and its deep technical knowledge, CTC have developed for its clients a quick and global evaluation addressing all these topics in a single assessment which covers main aspects of the factory compliance: Technical Performance, Social Compliance, Environmental Impacts, Health & Safety Issues.

This combined assessment is dedicated to any company involved in the supply chain, whether you are a Factory, Brand or Retailer.

Our auditors are trained to have a different approach for every different country, which have particular rules and organizations, but also, and mainly, for any different markets involved, which are, but not limitative:

- Fashion shoes factory
- Luxury shoes factory
- Sports shoes factory
- Safety shoes factory

Of course, to address the main issues of the factory, our auditors will consider first the specific manufacturing process used in the factory which might generate specific problems and different types of risks:

- Cemented
- Injection moulding
- Machine welted construction

CTC Seminars

CTC India recently proposed Safety gloves and Safety Footwear seminars. They took place in Kolkata then Kanpur in July. The speakers were Lionel Gaudillère, CTC Groupe CE Marking Manager, Pierre-Marie Plouhinec and Puneet Singh from CTC India.

The seminar in Kolkata has been supported through the Council of Leather Export of India and gathered a total of 38 people. More than 17 companies were represented.

The seminar in Kanpur has been organized in CLE office and more than 26 companies participated with 38 people attending the seminar.

To get more information, contact: Andre Leroy, aleroy@ctcgroupe.com
Sustainability for the Fashion Industry

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