Are you a buyer? A merchandiser? A product Manager? CTC’s International training program... p.6
CTC has many assets in meeting the needs of businesses being both a research center specializing in leather, footwear and leather goods and a service provider in quality control.

CTC is also an expert present in European standardization committees (CEN) and international ones (ISO), helping to define the standards of tomorrow.

The development of CTC is based on a global offer covering all aspects of production countries of leather, footwear and leather goods.

India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia and Bangladesh, covering the main markets of the world.

However, it is in the area of quality control that CTC became famous internationally, particularly in Asia with operations in China, Hong Kong, India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia and Bangladesh, covering the main production countries of leather, footwear and leather goods.

The development of CTC is based on a global offer covering all aspects of a company needs when manufacturing and marketing a quality product, whilst minimizing the technical and commercial risks and by enrolling in a responsible corporate approach.

This originality of a provider being both specialist and global, allows our customers to have a complete diagnosis of their value chain, from manufacturing to distribution, regardless of their size and their customers.
Modernising Safety
Times of change for European glove standards

Changes to protective glove standards have been few and far between since 2003, but changes are now a necessity. Dr Jean-Claude Cannot looks at the proposed changes to glove standards due to be implemented in the coming years.

There are essentially two standards due to be modified in the coming year. EN388 protective gloves against mechanical risks, and EN374 protective gloves against chemicals and microorganisms.

EN388 PROTECTIVE GLOVES AGAINST MECHANICAL RISKS
This standard applies to all kinds of protective gloves in respect of physical and mechanical aggressions caused by abrasion, blade cut, puncture and tearing. These provide protection against mechanical hazards expressed by a pictogram, followed by four numbers, or performance levels, each representing a test performance against a specific hazard.

EN374 PROTECTIVE GLOVES AGAINST CHEMICAL AND MICROORGANISMS
This standard specifies the capability of gloves to protect the user against chemicals and/or microorganisms, either through penetration or permeation. It is therefore necessary to measure breakthrough times, or the time taken for the hazardous liquid to come into contact with the skin.

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS
The EN388 mechanical risks standard is one of the most commonly used standards when testing safety gloves. It currently involves four testing procedures as tearing, perforation, abrasion and cutting.

In terms of the testing procedures related to tearing and perforation, nothing will change. Concerning abrasion and cutting testing procedures, the changes relate to a number of consumable products manipulated during the tests, including sandpaper, circular cutting blades and textiles. These consumables have proven unstable overtime, creating inconsistencies in the performance levels of safety gloves.

For example, the circular cutter blade used for the cut resistance test, notified body members have observed an increase in the level of sharpness of knives and blades available on the market place and of the resistance of materials used in the manufacturing of safety gloves. These findings have permitted an improvement in testing methods by addressing the evolution of functional characteristics to consumable products used in the testing procedure. Calibration procedures have been put into place to assess conformity to new consumable product specifications.

In general, changes to safety glove standards include calibration processes to the consumable products employed in the testing procedure. Inter-laboratory testing has been implemented to double check the pertinence of the calibration procedures. Acquiring a new type of sandpaper has proven time consuming, although one was eventually sourced in Germany, which will then have to be certified with the EU testing requirements.

Major changes to the EN374 chemical and microorganism hazards standard have come about due to the European Commission’s request to create a fusion between chemical infiltration evaluation methods applied to shoes, clothes and gloves, in order to have one simplified testing procedure.

There are two major objectives when it comes to creating a fusion between the testing procedures for shoes, clothes and gloves:
- Greater flexibility by reducing the strictness of the directive
- An increase in the thoroughness when it comes to the number of chemicals selected for testing.

Until now, the glove resistance standard EN374 part 1 constrained gloves to be tested according to three different chemical products. The new standard will first of all make available to manufacturers and companies a pre-listed number of chemicals to be tested. Secondly, it will provide more flexibility, allowing them to test either one, three or six chemical substances. The standard will introduce the notion of deterioration testing of safety gloves.

NEW STANDARD EN16778
The European Committee hopes a new testing procedure will create a gain in homogeneity across the European nations.

This singular method of evaluation for the whole of Europe comes in the form of the new EU standard, EN16778, which is designed to detect the presence of Dimethylformamide in the safety gloves. This standard is important because we need a high level of acknowledgment across Europe to enforce the standard. This new standard in glove innocuousness will mean revision of the general standard for safety gloves the EN420, outlining the general requirements.

CONCLUSION
Technology is constantly growing, mechanical and chemical risks evolve simultaneously while protection standards were stable. It was necessary to update the standards EN374 and EN388. n

For more information on glove testing solutions: contactclient@ctcgroupe.com

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CTC was among one of the first organisations to become a European PPE notified body, benefiting from a worldwide network of testing laboratories, which provided numerous advantages for manufacturers and brands.

The CTC international presence offers a quick turnaround time and the opportunity to test if required. CTC laboratories are all EN ISO 17 025 accredited. CTC is notified to deliver EC type-examination certificates for PPE and garments. CTC actively participates in the European coordination of official PPE organisation.
CTC SOLUTIONS

International training

CTC: your new training partner in Asia!

The countdown begins. In a few weeks, CTC will begin footwear and leather training in China, quickly followed by India in June. Whether you are a merchandiser, product manager, buyer, sales force member, store manager, in purchasing or a laboratory technician, CTC experts will guarantee expert technical training in leather and footwear conception and manufacturing.

Training courses are available in English in Shanghai, Dongguan and Hong Kong from 23rd March to 1st April 2015.

CTC Training in China

- AN INTRODUCTION TO FOOTWEAR CONCEPTION AND MANUFACTURING
  Focus on the footwear industry from design to manufacturing as well as a look at chemical substances.
  This training course will cover the following topics and benefits:
  - Footwear components and construction techniques
  - What's hot and what's not
  - Different manufacturing processes
  - What will pass tests and what won't
  - Shoemaking materials
  - What are popular and problematic
  - Styling and design
  - Design that works and doesn’t & why
  - Sizing systems
  - How to know what you’ve got is good
  - Main chemical substances to check for
  - Main chemical substances to look for
  - Materials sampling
  - Watch out for these health hazards

- AN INTRODUCTION TO LEATHER MANUFACTURING
  Focus on leather and its characteristics from identifying different hides and skins manufacturing techniques. This training course will cover the following topics and benefits:
  - A detailed look at different types of leather
  - How to recognise different species
  - A look at variations in aesthetic and structural aspects of leather
  - How to recognise differences in quality
  - Key steps in the manufacturing process of leather
  - Understand the impact on the quality of the final product
  - Main chemical substances to look for
  - Watch out for these health hazards

The training programs will help master technical vocabulary, understand the processes and different techniques relating to footwear and leather manufacturing, as well as providing trainees with the confidence and expertise they need in bringing more accurate information to customers, ultimately helping to maximise sales in leather goods and/or footwear, and build brand loyalty.

- EXPERT TRAINERS
  - French CTC experts will be managing the training courses in the Asian market. Christophe Cumin is Head of footwear training at CTC. His experience in footwear covers all major market segments: luxury, everyday and sports, with technical expertise ranging from product design and conception to shoe manufacturing and market legislation. Prior to working at CTC, Christophe worked for the footwear brand Palladium France.
  - His colleague, Anne-Laure Leprêtre is CTC leather consultant. As a material & leather engineer, she is a well-known figure in the leather industry, managing R&D projects at the CTC Research Center in France for 15 years, as well as managing training sessions for professionals and students and speaking at the technical congress (IULTCS).

This is your chance to become a specialist!

Next CTC Seminars

CTC is pleased to invite you to the following seminars. Our experts will present the latest updates with regard to safety, regulations and certification in gloves and footwear. Free entrance.

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS IN KOLKATA
www.leatherindia.org
Safety Gloves, Process, Regulation and CE Certification
This seminar will focus on standardization and testing for gloves.
Date: Saturday, 21 March 2015
Time: 10:30 - 11:00
Venue: H.B.T.I Campus (Adjacent to Central Bank of India)
Tel: 0512-2534198 - Email: cleknp@cleindia.com

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS IN KANPUR
www.leatherindia.org
Safety Footwear, Process, Regulation and CE certification
This seminar will focus on standardization and testing for footwear.
Date: Monday, 23 March 2015
Time: 10:30 - 11:00
Venue: H.B.T.I Campus (Adjacent to Central Bank of India)
Tel: 0512-2534198 - Email: cleknp@cleindia.com

MODA SHANGHAI
www.aslechina.com
CTC business activities. Waste Water Index
Date: 2-4 September 2015
Venue: Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC)
Speaker: Jean-Claude CANNOT, Technical and Standardisation Director of CTC
Contact: jccannot@ctcgroupe.com

REACH
You will hear from CTC experts on updates of the European REACH regulation and what businesses in the leather, footwear, textile and accessories industries have to be aware of in order to make their products harmless.
Date: 2-4 September 2015
Venue: Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC)
Speaker: Arnaud Bylick, Executive & Director General - China of CTC
Contact: adylick@ctcgroupe.com

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CTC SOLUTIONS FOR LEATHER GOODS

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- Laboratory Assessment
- CTC Laboratory Approval
- Laboratory Set-Up

PHYSICAL TESTING
- Quality Assurance Consulting
- Mechanical Resistance
- Heat Behaviour
- Color Fastness
- Luggage Testing

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS
- Prohibited Chemical Analysis
- Leather Chemical Analysis
- Performance Chemical Analysis
- Tanning Agent Analysis
- Effluent Analysis
- REACH/GB/CPSIA

PROCESS-PRODUCT-INNOVATION
- Product Development
- Quality Product Specifications
- Biomechanical Assessment
- Wear test

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
- Ecoconception
- Environmental and Safety Assessment
- Leather Assessment Programm
- Arduous Working Conditions
- Environmental Audit
- Social Audit

TRAINING
- Industry and Methods
- Production and Quality
- Product Conception and Development
- Products and Materials
- Style and Creation

FACTORY CONFORMITY CHECK
- In-Line Inspection
- Final Inspection
- Leather Assessment

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