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THE FACTS ABOUT STANDARDS

Understand the difference between EN Standards and
Australian/New Zealand Standards

HOW DO THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STANDARDS ALIGN TO THE EUROPEAN NORMS (EN)?

The EN testing standards are so comprehensive that many countries across the Asia-Pacific region have adopted the established the EN standards for their own use. This includes the Australian/New Zealand (AS/NZS 2161) standards.

The tables below list commonly referenced PPE standards.

HOW DO THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STANDARDS DIFFER FROM THE EUROPEAN NORMS (EN)?

The AS/NZS 2161 standards is replicated word for word from the EN standards. However, there is one major difference.

There are no Australian or New Zealand legislative requirements that compel manufacturers to submit their products for testing and certification by accredited authorities. This means in Australia, glove manufacturers undertake their own testing and issue their own compliance statements.

EN		AS/NZS	
374	Protective gloves against chemicals and micro-organisms	2161 2161.10	Occupational protective gloves Protective gloves against chemicals and micro-organisms
388	Protective gloves against mechanical risks	2161 2161.3	Occupational protective gloves Protection against mechanical risks
407	Protective gloves against thermal hazards (heat and/or fire)	2161.4	Protection against thermal risks (heat and fire)
421	Protective gloves against ionizing radiation and radioactive contamination	2161.8	Protection against ionizing radiation and radioactive contamination
511	Protective gloves against cold	2161.5	Protective against cold
659	Protective gloves for firefighters	2161.6	Protective gloves for firefighters — Laboratory test methods and performance requirements
1082	Protective clothing — Gloves and arm guards protecting against cuts and stabs by hand knives	2161.7	Protection against cuts and stabs by hand knives
10819	Mechanical vibration and shock — Hand-arm vibration — Method for the measurement and evaluation of the vibration transmissibility of gloves at the palm of the hand	2161.9	Method for the measurement and evaluation of the vibration transmissibility of gloves at the palm of the hand

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PEOPLE WHO SELECT PROTECTIVE GLOVES?

The AS/NZS2161 varies from the EN standards. It does not require a manufacturer, importer, distributor or supplier of protective gloves in Australia to undertake certified testing to claim compliance.

Ansell recommends that people involved in the selection and purchase of gloves speak with manufacturers and suppliers about the quality and testing regimes in place.

WHAT DOES THE CE MARKING ON THE GLOVE MEAN?

The CE stamp found on gloves is a mark of conformity, which certifies that the product has met the EU's consumer, safety and environmental requirements, including testing methods. For example, cut resistant gloves must have an independent notified body verify the safety claims of the product.

The CE mark must be permanently affixed to the gloves products, packaging and user manual.

Products fully compliant with CE requirements will also be given a document called the Declaration of Conformity (DoC).

The DoC serves as an important document to demonstrate product compliance to government bodies, retailers and end-consumers.



HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT THE COMPLIANCE CLAIMS FOR MY GLOVES ARE RELIABLE?

Compliance claims are reliable if you deal with reliable manufacturers.

If in doubt, always ask. Trusted, established manufacturers will be able to detail who certifies their products, and under what conditions. They should also be able to provide a track record of managing the testing and certification of products. For example, a Declaration of Conformity (DoC).

KEY POINTS

Ask your manufacturer who tests their product, and when.

It is best practice to comply with EN standards as they are heavily regulated and have relevant testing methods that have been updated to reflect market conditions.

Review your hand protection policies today – discuss your options with trusted manufacturers and suppliers.

