

Practical consideration on Gloves Thickness

What advice should be given by suppliers of substances/mixtures regarding hand protection in section 8.2 of the SDS?

Annex II to REACH, as per its most recent version in Commission Regulation (EU) No. 453/2010, states in paragraph 8.2.2.2.(b)(i) that the type of gloves to be worn shall be clearly specified (along with any additional hand protection measures if necessary). This includes the type of material and its thickness, and the typical or minimum breakthrough time of the glove material.

Suppliers of substances/mixtures should refer to the recommendations of the glove supplier for the substance or use in question, or to the results of any trials of their own, and include relevant information in their SDS. Expert judgment and practical experience may need to be applied.

In the case of mixtures, which will not normally have been tested individually against glove types, information should be used for the ingredient substance(s) representing the most significant risk for dermal exposure (e.g. solvent or corrosive substance). The DNEL (dermal) (critical component approach)¹ or DPD+ lead substance methodology² can be used. After having checked the most relevant ingredients, a screening assessment should be executed to determine if the type of glove is sufficient also for the other ingredients.

If appropriate specific information is not available internally or from the glove supplier, information can be obtained from exposure scenarios, lists of glove types compiled by Member States or other authoritative organisations, or from published industry guidelines/recommendations. The substance / mixture supplier should select the most appropriate glove type and include the specific information in his SDS, not just a reference to the aforementioned sources.

In addition to the above, generic statements on safe use of gloves and other hand protection measures can be given in the SDS. For example the user should be advised to follow manufacturers' instructions, to replace gloves regularly, to check for signs of damage or defects and/or to check the appropriateness of the recommended gloves for their own particular conditions of use. Regular hand checks may be recommended for operators.

Cefic SDS Task Force
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¹ See ECHA "Guidance on information requirements and chemical safety assessment , Part G: Extending the SDS": http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13632/information_requirements_part_g_en.pdf

² http://www.cefic.org/Documents/IndustrySupport/ES_for-preparations-DPD+methodology.pdf

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