

New EU Regulations

Introduction

Just 1 Source & Supply Ltd are proud to be recognised as providers of consistent quality products, only offering the highest standards in conformity and service levels. We believe the changes from the current PPE 89/686 Directive to the new 2016/425 Regulations will continue to keep the UK as one of the world leaders in health and safety in PPE.

Working as One

In short the PPE Directive (89/686/EEC) was adopted by the European Parliament and Council of the European Union in 1989 to cater for a single European market. This PPE Directive proved on the whole very successful and led to harmonised standards for all Member States to remove obstacles to trade in PPE between Member States.

Why Change

As the PPE Directive is over 20 years old and in the main has never changed, it needed to reflect the changes in technology. So will be replaced with the new PPE 2016/425 Regulation which will affect many products sold in the EU. The new 2016/425 Regulation puts more responsibility on to the Importer and Distributor to be considered a manufacturer for the purposes of this regulation. It will be subject to the obligations of the manufacturer, ensuring the right markings and full conformity are in place before selling any PPE product.

Timescales

- 1989 European Council publish the 89/686/EEC PPE Directive
- 2015 European Council announce the development of regulation and final publication
- 2016 The OJ (Official Journal) of the European Council replaces the 89/686/EEC Directive with the new PPE 2016/425 Regulation with a 2 year transition period
- 2018 New PPE will be only EU type-examined in accordance with the new 2016/425 Regulation.
- 2019 April 21st onwards, new PPE 2016/425 Regulation applies.
- 2023 All PPE have to be covered under the new PPE Regulation 2016/425.

Expiration Period

Existing certificates will remain valid until 21 April 2023 for goods that have been placed on the market prior to 21st April 2019 under the 89/686/EEC Directive, unless the 89/686/EEC certificate bears an expiry date before that date; or has been withdrawn by the issuing notified body.

Product Evaluation

All Just 1 Source products are tested by CTC Asia. CTC is a European Testing Body (HQ in France) and one of the market leaders in the evaluation and certification of PPE. All products tested in Asia are then verified and certified by West Yorkshire Materials Testing Service who are members of the British Safety Industry Federation (BSIF).

Supplier Obligations

As an importer of working gloves from another country; Just 1 Source continues to ensure all products introduced to the market are compliant with the current PPE EU Standards and in particular, that appropriate conformity assessment procedures have been carried out by our manufacturers. Provisions are made to make sure that the conformity assessment procedures have been carried out and that the CE marking and technical documentation drawn up by our manufacturers are available for inspection by the competent national authorities. We also ensure storage and transport does not degrade any product introduced to the market through regular QC checks.

Distributor Obligations

Distributors should always ensure products purchased; have a CE mark either on the product or packaging and the manufacturer's user instructions are present. Distributors have to ensure that storage and transport of PPE product procedures are appropriate and will not jeopardise its conformity or degrade the product in any form.

Abrasion Testing

The main revision to abrasion testing requires the use of Klingspor PL13B Grit 180 sandpaper and 3M Scotch adhesive tape, which may affect the abrasion score.

Cut Protection

EN388:2003 uses the Coupe test style methodology to calculate cut protection levels.

EN388:2016 sees the introduction of a second **ISO13997** TDM style methodology to supplement the Coupe test and offer more accurate results for materials containing fibreglass or steel.

Although the makeup of the Coupe methodology involves various procedures, in essence it consists of a rotating circular blade with a defined force of 5N moving backwards and forwards across the test material to gauge the number of cycles before it cuts through. Test materials containing stronger, higher strength threads can cause the blade to become blunt, in this case it is mandatory to switch the testing to ISO13997. Any materials tested containing steel, will result in inaccurate cut scores.

In short, the makeup of the new TDM style test involves various procedures, but requires a straight blade, replaced after every cut. A heavier weight is also applied after each cut increasing the Newton Force, to obtain the average load required to cut through. This new cut method is defined using letters A to F denoting the increased level of protection, with the letter F confirming the highest cut rating. This letter now appears as the fifth character in the EN388:2016 mechanical rating. For example:

Mechanical Standard Marking

EN388:2003

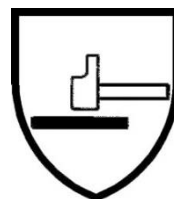
- 1 = Abrasion
- 2 = Cut Test (Coupe)
- 3 = Tear
- 4 = Puncture



Mechanical Standard Marking

EN388:2016

- 1 = Abrasion
- 2 = Cut Test (Coupe)
- 3 = Tear
- 4 = Puncture
- 5 = Cut Test (ISO13997) A-F
- 6 = Impact Protection





A full pdf copy of the Official Journal of the European Union can be found at the link below:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0425&from=EN>

Just 1 Source & Supply Ltd's commitment to the continued development of excellence ensures our customers receive consistent quality of both products and service levels.