

# Efficacia protettiva dei guanti di lattice nei confronti degli agenti chimici

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## KEY WORDS

Latex gloves; dermal chemical risk; cytotoxic agents

## SUMMARY

*«Chemical resistance of latex gloves». Dermal chemical risk is represented by the chemicals with irritant, caustic and sensitization properties or that can produce toxic effects after penetration through the skin. During the last few years the interest for the effective protecting ability of gloves progressively is increased in parallel with their use. Penetration of chemicals through the protecting material does not always turn out visible. That has led to the development of test standardizes. In 1989 the EC adopted two Directives in the field of the characteristics of protection devices defining certification procedures (89/686/EEC) and characteristics demanded for the use of protection devices at the workplace (89/656/EEC). When the European Standards are accepted from the CEN they exist in rough draft shape (prEN), losing the prefixed one pr- when they are approved by all the EC member Countries. A number of EN for protection gloves have been proposed by CEN/TC 162 regarding methods for testing the resistance to penetration/permeation of chemicals and other characteristics. However in these protocols some limitations were found, since not necessarily they represent the real using conditions. In general an ideal protecting material against the chemicals does not exist because what is effective to a specific compound does not effectively protect from an other. Latex is not commonly considered a very chemical resistant material and therefore its use in such sense is limited. However the low cost and the spread of latex gloves in particular in Public Health often make them easy available at workplace and therefore used in several situations.*