Test Methods for Glove Grip

Details overleaf
SATRA has published two new test methods relating to glove grip. SATRA TM437 covers finger and thumb ‘pinch grip’ and SATRA TM438 provides a method of testing whole hand grip. This new protocol not only provides manufacturers and retailers with the exact information they have been looking for, but also provides end-users with the most appropriate kind of glove for their trade.

It has long been recognised that good glove grip is an important consideration for glove users. Operability and even safety can be compromised by gloves with poor grip characteristics.

Until the publishing of the SATRA test methods, widely available substantive glove grip tests had been unavailable to many glove manufacturers and users. Previous glove standards tended to concentrate on protective properties, and glove grip assessment was either nonexistent or limited to basic dexterity testing.

The SATRA test methods were intended to fill the gap, having been developed in response to a demand from within the glove industry for better defined, practical tests. The test methods are the result of a collaborative research programme with leading industry manufacturers.

Both SATRA grip tests can be applied to a wide range of gloves, from fine textile or latex products to heavy-duty industrial gloves. Both tests are designed to compare the grip performance of gloves before and after surface contaminants are applied. By combining the two different test methods an overall result for whole-glove grip testing can be achieved.

Using a combination of objective testing (force data produced from load cells within the test equipment) and user comments on glove performance, SATRA’s tests are intended to aid manufacturers’ development programmes and substantiate any claims made, as well as enabling end-users to better select the correct glove material for the job in hand.

It is expected that manufacturers and users will specify these tests as part of overall glove suitability specifications as well as to satisfy safety legislation – for instance to support CE marking for the European market to demonstrate fitness for purpose and comply with either the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Directive 89/686/EEC or the Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EEC. SATRA test methods are highly regarded and can be found in many procurement specifications including those of the military.

To obtain SATRA TM437 and SATRA TM 438 contact testmethods@satra.com

For grip testing of protective gloves contact ppe@satra.com