

AQL	Acceptable Quality Level; defined as the worst case quality level, in percentage, that is still considered acceptable; medical grade gloves range from 1.0 - 2.5%, industrial 4.0%.
Accelerators	Substances that speed up a chemical reaction. During glove manufacturing process chemicals are added to convert liquid latex into film for elasticity and durability.
Allergic Contact Dermatitis	Delayed type of allergy resulting from skin contact with a specific allergen to which the person has developed a specific sensitivity. This allergic reaction can cause inflammation of the skin, rash, blisters and swelling and typically related to the chemicals used in glove manufacturing. Categorized as Type IV Delayed Type Hypersensitivity.
Antigenic Proteins	Proteins which can stimulate the production of antibodies by the immune system, and to which the immune system will react if it is identified in the body; antigenic proteins found in natural rubber latex are known to cause latex allergies in sensitized individuals.
Antioxidants	A substance added to latex and synthetic polymers to prevent or delay deterioration of the glove by oxygen in the air.
ASTM	An international testing methods and standards organization whose standards have been adopted for use by the US FDA for medical glove testing.
Bio Burden	The number of bacteria living on a surface before it is sterilized.
Biocompatibility	The quality of not having toxic or injurious effects on the body. Medical gloves undergo animal testing to ISO 10993 standards to ensure their safety.
CE Marking	Marking required for sale of medical devices within the European Union. With CE marking on a product the manufacturer ensures that the product conforms with the essential requirements of the applicable EC directives.
Chemical Residue	The chemicals remaining in a glove after the manufacturing process. Can be a source of allergic contact dermatitis.
Chemotherapy Glove	Specialized glove tested for use with chemotherapy drugs (ASTM D6978 or EN 374 -3). Intended use should be specific to the chemotherapy drugs tested.
Chlorination	A process used in glove manufacturing to reduce the tackiness of the glove surface, reduce protein content and eliminate dusting powder.
Chloroprene	Synthetic polymer with latex -like qualities, excellent chemical and abrasion resistance and good mechanical strength. Also known as neoprene.
Clean Room Gloves	Gloves produced in controlled environments with very low levels of contaminants (i.e. dust). For use in controlled environmental clean room conditions such as pharmaceutical or electronic manufacturing.
Coagulant Dipping	Process of dipping hand mold (former) into a coagulant.
Compounding	The addition of chemicals to liquid polymers during manufacturing process to accelerate reactions, prevent deterioration or improve final product such as accelerators, whiteners and antioxidants.
Degradation	Damage caused by liquid chemicals, extreme heat, ozone, fatigue or other substances on the physical properties of a product. Signs of glove degradation may include softening and tackiness, brittleness, discoloration and loss of elasticity.
Elasticity	Refers to the ability to stretch and return to original form. See also elongation.
ELISA	Test to identify specific amount of antigenic proteins found in natural rubber latex products (ASTM D6499).
Elongation at Break	Measurement of the length a glove can be stretched before it breaks, measured as percent. The higher the elongation percentage the more stretchable the material.
Endotoxins	A toxin contained in the cell walls of some microorganisms, especially gram -negative bacteria, that is released when the bacterium dies and is broken down in the body. Fever, chills, shock and a variety of other symptoms result, depending on the particular organism and the health condition of the infected person.
Extractable Proteins	Level of total proteins produced by water extraction for natural rubber latex products per ASTM D5712, expressed in micrograms or milligrams. See also Modified Lowry.
Force at Break (FAB)	Measurement of the force required to break a glove when stretched, expressed in Newtons (N). The higher the number the stronger the glove. EN standards require a minimum of 6 N for examination gloves and 9 N for surgical gloves.
Industrial Gloves	General purpose gloves not requiring specific barrier protection and not subject to regulatory review or approvals.

Latex Allergy	An immediate immune response to the proteins found in natural rubber latex. Symptoms are urticaria or hives, itching or flushing, swelling, sneezing, runny nose, cough, wheeze, shortness of breath, chest tightness, nausea, dizziness or lightheadedness. Categorized as Type I Immediate Hypersensitivity.
Major Defects	A manufacturing defect that alters the performance, use, effectiveness or life of a product (i.e. pinhole).
Medical Grade Gloves	Gloves produced to higher quality and production standards and strictly regulated by US FDA, EC Directives, Health Canada and other governmental regulatory agencies. For use in medical applications requiring specific barrier protection against blood, body fluids or infectious agents.
Minor Defects	A manufacturing defect mainly cosmetic in nature; typically does not alter performance (i.e. discoloration).
Modified Lowry	Test to identify the total protein content in natural rubber latex products; expressed as $X \mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^2$ (ASTM D5712).
Nitrile	Acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber, a synthetic polymer commonly used in medical and industrial gloves.
Non-pyrogenic	Non-fever causing. Contains low levels of endotoxins which, when elevated, cause fever, inflammation and endotoxic shock.
Particulate Count	Level of airborne particulates or contaminants present in a specified environment. Control of particulate counts are essential in critical work environments such as pharmaceutical or electronic manufacturing. See also cleanroom gloves.
Permeation	Process of a liquid, such as a chemotherapy drug or chemical, passing through (diffusion) a solid surface, expressed as breakthrough time or flow rate.
Physical Properties	Critical performance characteristics of a glove such as tensile strength, elongation, modulus and thickness.
Pinholes	A tiny opening (hole) in a glove allowing for the transmission of blood, chemicals, bacteria, etc. through the opening, lowering the barrier level. Pinholes are considered a major quality defect (see also major defect and water tightness test).
Polyisoprene	A synthetic polymer with molecular properties almost identical to natural rubber latex providing the valued properties of latex such as tactile sensitivity and elasticity without the concerns of latex allergy.
Polymer	Any natural or synthetic compound of usually high molecular weight consisting of up to millions of repeated link units, each a light and simple molecule.
Polymer Coated	Application of a polymer to the surface area of the glove to aid in donning. Typically polyurethane or a combination of polymers is used.
Protein Content	Measurement of the amount of total or antigenic proteins contained within a natural rubber latex product. See also ELISA and Modified Lowry.
Pyrogens	Any substance or agent that tends to cause a rise in body temperature (fever) such as some bacterial toxins. See also endotoxins.
SAL	Sterility Assurance Level used to describe the probability of a single unit being non-sterile after it has been subjected to the sterilization process.
Shelf Life	Defined period of time during which a product shows little to no deterioration or degradation and remains usable for its intended purpose.
Sterilization	Process of killing all forms of microbial life by heat, ethylene oxide gas or gamma irradiation.
Stripping	Process of removing the glove from the mold (former) and turned inside out.
Surgical Glove	Specialized glove produced on anatomical molds (formers) for better fit, more precise sizing and greater comfort and tactile sensitivity for delicate procedures and manufactured to higher quality standards than medical exam gloves. Surgical gloves are sterilized to prevent contamination of the surgical site.
Synthetic Rubber	Polymer produced with chemicals and not containing natural rubber latex (i.e. nitrile, chloroprene or polyisoprene).
Tactile Sensitivity	The degree to which an object can be distinguished by the sense of touch. Typically thinner gloves have higher tactile sensitivity. A critical feature for surgical gloves.
Tensile Strength	Measurement of the force required to break a material when stretched, expressed in megapascals (Mpa). The higher the number the stronger the glove.
Thickness	The measurement of the depth of a glove surface, expressed as mil or millimeter (mm). The higher the number the thicker the glove and a higher level of protection.
Viral Penetration	The ability of a virus to pass through a surface (ASTM F1671).
Vulcanization	Process of converting liquid polymer to a strengthened gel film using heat or chemicals (also known as curing).
Water Tight Test	Test used to measure gloves for pinholes. Glove is filled with specified volume of water and must maintain water tightness for defined period of time (ASTM D5151, EN 455 -1).