



PRESS RELEASE

Ansell Healthcare steps up the battle against latex allergies with broadened synthetic offering

Variant versions to DermaShield® to better meet needs of pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries

Brussels, 21 august 2008 - Ansell Healthcare, a world leader in barrier protection solutions, has been at the forefront in allergy prevention for many years now. Two new versions have recently been added to its range of latex-free gloves: a sterile and a non-sterile add-on to the polychloroprene DermaShield® glove. With the new bearded-cuff variants of this chemical-resistant glove, Ansell now offers a wider choice of synthetic gloves that combine optimal (chemical) protection with latex-like comfort, for use in drug and medical device manufacturing and in biotechnologies.

Ansell's proactive approach towards latex allergy management consists of two main pillars. For many years, the company has been implementing different techniques to reduce the allergenic potential of its latex gloves. In addition, Ansell invests heavily in the development of alternative products. The company was the first to launch nitrile gloves for the clean room environment. Later came the neoprene DermaShield®, marketed as 'the most advanced industrial glove solution in allergy prevention'.

Allergic reactions ruled out

Containing no accelerators (vulcanizers or antioxidants), DermaShield® gloves minimize the risk of type IV allergies. As the polychloroprene gloves are free of latex proteins, they also prevent the onset of type I allergies. In spite of the absence of Natural Rubber Latex (NRL), the gloves promote latex-like comfort levels and flexibility. The polyurethane inner coating makes donning easy and also facilitates smooth double-gloving, which is a growing trend within the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries.

Proven protection against cytostatics

A distinctive characteristic of the DermaShield® glove is its exceptional protection level against chemicals, including the hazardous cancer drugs, cytostatics. With cancer rates growing rapidly over the past few years, an increasing number of people in pharmaceutical environments are regularly coming into contact with cytostatics.

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To make sure the DermaShield® glove provides sufficient protection against these hazardous drugs, Ansell used the Ansell Cytostatics Permeation Programme (ACPP) - a unique testing protocol to assess the dynamic permeation levels of gloves for the most widely used types of cytostatics. Results have shown that neoprene is one of the best-placed materials to prevent cytostatics permeation. In addition to protecting its wearers, DermaShield® also protects products in clean room environments where consistent product quality is a must.

Sterile + non-sterile versions

The DermaShield® newcomers have a beaded cuff which prevents the gloves from rolling down. For pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing and drug manufacturing applications that do not require sterile conditions, the glove now comes in a non-sterile version as well. Also new is the upgraded attention to packaging to further avoid product contamination: the gloves are packaged in several different layers for superior contamination control.

The DermaShield® product range is recommended for use in drug and medical device manufacturing and in biotechnologies.

About Ansell:

Ansell Limited is a global leader in barrier protective products. With operations in the Americas, Europe, and Asia, Ansell employs more than 11,000 people worldwide and holds leading positions in the natural latex and synthetic polymer glove and condom markets. Ansell operates in three main business segments: Occupational Healthcare, supplying hand protection to the industrial market; Professional Healthcare, supplying surgical and examination gloves to healthcare professionals; and Consumer Healthcare, supplying condoms and consumer hand protection. Information on Ansell and its products can be found at <http://www.anselleurope.eu>

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