TAILGATE SAFETY

CHEMICAL RESISTANT GLOVES – HAND PROTECTION

Use of chemicals in your job or specific tasks may require that you wear special protective clothing. Part of that protective clothing is choosing the appropriate gloves for the particular application or chemical. Several factors should be taken into account when choosing the correct glove for the job:

- The toxic properties of the chemical or chemicals (health effects).
- The work activities being undertaken. These must be observed and the degree of dexterity required, the duration, frequency and degree of chemical exposure, and the physical stresses which will be applied must be determined; and
- The performance characteristics of the gloves. These should be assessed using standard test procedures (performed by manufacturer). Characteristics to be considered include chemical, puncture, tear, and abrasion resistance.

Information regarding what type of glove to wear for a specific chemical can be found in the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) of the chemical. The manufacturer (or safety supplier) of the gloves will also have information regarding the characteristics of their gloves and what types of chemicals the gloves may be used to provide protection. The following are general types of chemical and liquid resistant gloves:

Butyl Rubber Gloves – Provide protection from strong acids, rocket fuels and peroxides. These gloves have a high impermeability to gases, chemicals, water vapor, and resistance to oxidation and ozone attack. They have high abrasion resistance and remain flexible at low temperatures

Natural Latex or Rubber Gloves – Provide protection from most water solutions of acids, alkalis, salts, and ketones. Plus, they are resistant to abrasions occurring in sandblasting, grinding, and polishing. These gloves have excellent wearing qualities, pliability, and comfort and are a good general-purpose glove.

Neoprene Gloves – Provide good protection from hydraulic fluids, gasoline, alcohols, organic acids, and alkalis. They have good pliability and finger dexterity, high density and tensile strength, plus high fear resistance.

Nitrile Rubber Gloves – Provide protection from chlorinated solvents. They are intended for jobs requiring dexterity and sensitivity, yet they stand up under mechanical use even after prolonged exposure to substances that cause other glove materials to deteriorate. They also resist abrasion, puncturing, snagging, and tearing.

Gloves used to protect against chemicals and corrosive substances require special treatment.

- Inspect before wearing to make sure gloves are clean, with no rips or holes.
- Rinse gloves thoroughly before removing them.
- Clean gloves thoroughly before putting them away.
- Store gloves in a cool, dark, dry place. Be sure they're right-side out, or you can trap chemicals inside. And don't fold the cuffs over or it will weaken the material.

Training Tips: a) Have examples of gloves your company uses to illustrate, b) Outline your specific company policy and the ramifications if the rules are not followed, c) Ask questions to get your employees involved in the training c) Use examples of potential exposures for your operations to emphasize your points.