

Specification for

Rubber gloves for electrical purposes

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Personal Safety Equipment Standards Committee PSM/- to Technical Committee PSM/37, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association
- British Railways Board
- British Rubber Manufacturers' Association
- British Steel Corporation
- Chemical Industries Association
- Electricity Supply Industry in England and Wales
- Ergonomics Society
- Health and Safety Executive
- Home Office
- Industrial Safety (Protective Equipment) Manufacturers' Association
- London Regional Transport
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Ministry of Defence
- National Association of Glove Manufacturers
- Pressed Felt Manufacturers' Association
- Rubber and Plastics Research Association of Great Britain
- Trades Union Congress
- Welding Institute

The following body was also represented in the drafting of the standard, through subcommittees and panels:

British Telecommunications plc

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Personal Safety Equipment Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 30 April 1986

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Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
Foreword	ii
1 Scope	1
2 Requirements for all gloves	1
3 Requirements for gloves for use at potentials of up to 650 V	1
4 Requirements for gloves for use at potentials between 650 V and 4 000 V	2
5 Instructions	2
6 Marking	2
Appendix A Measurement of thickness	4
Appendix B Electrical resistance test	4
Appendix C Guidance concerning the maintenance, inspection, re-testing and use of rubber gloves after purchase	5
Appendix D Typical dimensions	1
Figure 1 — Outline of a typical standard glove (internal dimensions)	6
Table 1 — Maximum leakage currents and glove lengths	1
Table 2 — Thickness of gloves	2
Table 3 — Test potentials and leakage currents	3
Table 4 — Colour codes	3
Table 5 — Typical internal dimensions	6
Publications referred to	Inside back cover

Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Personal Safety Equipment Standards Committee. It is a revision of BS 697:1977, which is withdrawn. It was first published in 1936 and was revised in 1940, 1953, 1960 and 1977.

At the time of publication of this British Standard, no corresponding international standard exists. An international standard that will specify safety and mitts of insulating material for electrical purposes is in the course of preparation within IEC/TC 78, Tools for live working, of the International Electrotechnical Commission.

This revision recognizes the need, in certain circumstances, for gloves that are to be used at potentials of up to 650 V to have a high degree of flexibility. The revision takes account of this need in specifying a maximum thickness for the material of such gloves, the minimum thickness being controlled by the ability of the glove to meet the electrical resistance tests. Since 650 V gloves complying with this revised standard are likely to be thinner than those made to the previous edition, special attention is drawn to the guidance on re-testing and on examination before use given in Appendix C.

The three classes of gloves rated at 1 000 V, 3 300 V and 4 000 V are retained, with only minor amendments made to the electrical test requirements. It should be noted that where the Electricity (Factories Act) Special Regulations 1908 and 1944 apply, work on live high-voltage equipment (above 650 V) is prohibited. It is thus the practice for such classes of gloves to be used as an additional safety measure to supplement other primary safety precautions used on high-voltage systems, or for use in an emergency e.g. for the purpose of saving life or averting disaster.

This revision introduces requirements that take into account the relationship between the length of a glove and its electrical resistance.

The double electrical test is retained in this revision to provide an additional safeguard to the user. This was found to be necessary after investigations had been carried out into the effects of storage in humid conditions. Special attention is drawn to Appendix C which gives guidance concerning the maintenance, inspection, re-testing and use of rubber gloves after purchase.

This British Standard does not imply that rubber gloves afford the only means of protection for those working on electrical circuits. Every other practicable precaution should be taken against the risk of shock and, whenever possible, the circuit should be isolated. Attention is drawn to the Electricity (Factories Act) Special Regulations referred to above.

NOTE The Health & Safety Commission has approved the 1977 edition of this British Standard under Section 16(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 for the purpose of giving practical guidance on the design and manufacture of rubber gloves for electrical purposes in compliance with Section 6(1) of the Act.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 6, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.