

Guidelines have been produced on cut resistant gloves. Copies can be obtained from:

The SA Meat Industry OHS Website

www.workcover.com/safer/meat.html

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Designed by WorkCover Corporation's
marketing and communication department

April 2000

Cut resistant gloves *in the*

Meat Industry



SAfer Industries Project
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SAFER
Industries

What are cut resistant gloves?

Cut resistant gloves are fibre gloves woven with a special wire thread to prevent knife cuts. They are available in various thicknesses and hand sizes.

The thinner cut resistant glove can be worn on the knife hand to protect against 'run throughs' - when the hand slips over the handle of the knife across the sharp blade.

The thicker glove can be worn on the non-knife hand as an alternative to the chain mesh glove.

Are hand lacerations a problem?

Yes! In South Australia, over the last four years 27% of all injuries to meat workers were lacerations to hands and arms.

Lacerations accounted for nearly 25% of workers compensation costs in the meat industry. The meat industry is one of South Australia's worst performing industries.

What about health concerns?

To meet AS4461/1997, 'Australian Standard for hygienic production of meat for human consumption (2nd edition)' and AQIS requirements only light coloured cut resistant gloves may be worn.

The Standards currently approve only Kevlar and Spectra fibres interwoven in the gloves.

They must be covered by a waterproof glove in pre-inspection areas of slaughtering.

They must also be laundered according to the manufacturer's instructions to maintain health standards.

What are the benefits of cut resistant gloves?

On site evaluations indicate they:

- can eliminate up to 80% of knife cut injuries
- provide greater dexterity than steel mesh gloves
- keep hands warm in temperature controlled areas
- are more comfortable than steel mesh gloves
- are lighter weight than steel mesh gloves

What are the concerns with cut resistant gloves?

- there is the potential for overuse injuries in knife hand or wrist with extra gripping of the knife
- there may be difficulty in wearing a waterproof glove over a cut resistant glove as required in controlled areas
- cut resistant gloves are not stab-proof.



How does this affect you?

Avoid lacerations by wearing a thin cut resistant glove on your knife hand and a thick cut resistant or steel mesh glove on your non knife hand.