

Domestic Oven Gloves Subject To New EU Regulation for Personal Protective Equipment

In the European Union, starting from 21 April, 2018 the current Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Directive 89/686/EEC will be superseded by a new PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425. It then becomes a legal requirement for all those involved in the PPE industry to comply with the requirements set out in the new PPE Regulation.

PPE is defined as equipment designed and manufactured to be worn or held by a person for protection against one or more risks to that person's health or safety. **Under the current PPE Directive 89/686/EEC, PPE for private use against heat (e.g. oven gloves and mitts) was excluded from its scope.**

The new PPE Regulation slightly modifies the scope and the risk categorization of products. **With these changes, domestic oven gloves and mitts will be regulated by the new PPE Regulation and classified as Category II products** while Category I products are limited to those providing protection against contact with hot surfaces not exceeding 50 °C.

Under the new PPE Regulation, products falling under Category II have to undergo EU type-examination (module B) set out in Annex V, followed by conformity to type based on internal production control (module C) set out in Annex VI. Compliant PPE should be affixed with CE marking before being sold in the European Union.

To comply with the new PPE Regulation, domestic oven gloves should conform to different standards such as BS 6526:1998 and ISO 12127-1, which are applicable to gloves joined in pairs, single gloves and gloves with a thumb. These standards specify requirements for adequate heat protection to the hand and wrist area of the wearer. They also require product performance not detrimentally affected by washing, and the design does not restrict movement.

Manufacturers and sellers of domestic oven gloves targeting the EU market are advised to have their products evaluated by conformity assessment organizations well before the new regulation comes into effect.

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