



Storage and useful life of Electrical Insulating Gloves

August 2023

Under current PPE Regulations and EN & IEC Standards, there is no evidence to suggest that Insulating gloves have an expiry date if the following rules are followed:

Storage prior to issue

Gloves should be stored in a sealed poly bag and away from sources of ozone, extreme temperature, or UV light. When purchased the gloves should be kept in similar conditions – preferably in a suitable box or bag.

Examination before use

Visual and pneumatic inspection before each use, again by the customer. Manually inflating the gloves or, preferably, using the specific pneumatic glove tester.

Periodic Inspection and Electrical re-testing

After 12 months from the manufacturing date, during which time the products have been correctly stored (as described above) before sale.

The gloves will be Periodically Inspected and re-tested at the 12 month anniversary and sealed in a poly bag and the 12 month shelf storage time clock starts again

Once purchased the gloves are subject to a periodic inspection and re-testing every 6 months once in use. This is a continuous requirement on a rolling process until gloves fail test.

The standards slightly differ with regards re-testing:

- EN 60 903: a visual and pneumatic inspection may be considered as the periodical inspection for classes 00 & 0; for other classes, a dielectric electrical test is required.
- IEC 60 903: an dielectric test is required as periodical inspection for all classes (00, 0, 1, 2, 3 & 4).
- UK industry has adopted the EN 60 903 standard due to the higher volumes of lower priced Class 00 and 0 gloves in general use. In such cases most people will dispose of the gloves rather than get them re-tested.

Example using above terms and guidelines

A worked example (Classes 1-4 applicable) is below:

- Date of Manufacture is September 2022 - the gloves can be held in stock until September 2023 before needing an Electrical Re-Test. Gloves are deemed OK for use if retested. A new bag or record of the test can/ will be supplied.
- Gloves can be held in stock for up to 11 months, then sold and issued to the End User. At this point, the '6 month' clock starts ticking.
- After 6 months the gloves must be Periodically Inspected and re-tested – pneumatic and dielectric testing unless classes 0 and 00 (UK considers pneumatic testing as adequate).

Cleaning

Gloves shall be washed with soap and water at a temperature not exceeding 65oC. After washing, the gloves should be thoroughly dried. Do not use sharp objects to remove marks or use any chemicals such as kerosene, petrol, paraffin, toluene or xylene to clean the gloves.

Reece Safety Products