

EN ISO 374-5 VIRUS AND ASTM F 1671 STANDARDS OVERVIEW

When choosing a glove for protection against viruses like the one that causes COVID-19, it's important to know which regulatory standards exist to help ensure proper protection.

In the European Union, the EN ISO 374-5 VIRUS standard measures the ability of gloves to protect users against bacteria, fungi and viruses. Gloves featuring the EN 374-5 VIRUS marking on packaging have been proven to not leak when tested according to EN 374-2: 2014.

In North America, the ability of gloves to protect against micro-organisms is defined by ASTM F 1671. Just like with ISO 16603/16604, a bacteriophage is added to one side of a testing chamber and pressure is applied for a period of time. This test measures if any micro-organisms, like viruses, pass through the glove.

Protective gloves against micro-organisms

In the European Union, gloves must pass the leak test according to EN 374-2: 2014. The possibility of claiming protection against viruses has been added if the glove passes the ISO 16604: 2004 test (method B).

In North America, gloves must pass ASTM F 1671 pass/fail test to certify protection against micro-organisms like bacteria or viruses.

Differences Between Bacteria and Viruses

Size of bacteria



Size of Virus



Bacteria are usually 1 to 10 micrometers. On the other hand, the size of a virus is 1/10 to 1/100 of bacteria.

The small size of a virus makes it easy to pass through the pinholes in ordinary protective gloves. Gloves that meet the EN 374-5 VIRUS or ASTM F 1671 Standards, however, are proven to act as an effective barrier even against small viruses.

EN ISO 374-5:2016



*EN ISO 374-5 :
For gloves offering
protection against
bacteria and fungi.*

EN ISO 374-5:2016



VIRUS
or **ASTM F 1671**
*Gloves that meet the EN
374-5 VIRUS or ASTM F 1671
Standards are further tested
to protect against much
smaller viruses*

Best practices for glove use



Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before putting on gloves and after taking them off



Wear properly fitting gloves with a close fit around fingers and wrists to reduce the risk of exposure



Never reuse or wash single-use or exam gloves



Never use damaged or visibly soiled gloves



Do not touch your face while wearing gloves

➔ Visit [Ansell.com](https://www.ansell.com) to discover the latest updates on global PPE regulations and explore our full range of products certified to protect against exposure to viruses.