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Ansell

in touch

The Ansell Newsletter

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Dear reader,

The start of a new year is always an ideal moment to reflect on the past 12 months and to look forward to the future. This year, there is no way of escaping a shadow of worry and fear when thinking of what lies ahead in terms of business. 2009 is surely shaping up to be a critical, challenging year for companies around the world.

Ansell realizes all too well what many of its industrial customers are up against this year: drum-tight budgets, personnel cuts and many other challenges. In that harsh financial climate, the temptation may be great to cut costs in areas that may not seem too important for survival at first sight, like workplace health and safety. A tighter economy, however, requires much more than random budget cuts. Companies that wish to endure and thrive, will restructure their business culture and rethink their strategy. Be nimble and responsive. So that they are totally prepared for the upturn. When it comes to health and safety, it is essential to regard it as a proper business investment in the future of a company.

Ansell can assist you in selecting the optimal hand protection solutions and help you manage your Total Cost of Ownership. We invite you to call upon the unique Ansell GuardianSM consulting service designed to help large production sites qualifying and quantifying risk exposures for increasing both worker safety and productivity. In addition, Ansell continually invest in product enhancements and innovations, so that its solutions increasingly boost your worker's safety and productivity. Which will, therefore, benefit your bottom-line in the long term.

Everyone at Ansell truly hopes your company will be able to turn every challenge into a business opportunity in 2009 and looks forward to a further successful collaboration. And because business is not all that counts: let me wish you a warm, loving and healthy New Year for you and all your loved ones!



Werner Heintz

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Editorial

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Ansell's safety bus tours UK's building and construction sites

Building and construction workers throughout the UK were fairly surprised when seeing a fire truck, revamped in Ansell colours, drive into their construction yard in November/December last. The demo bus invited them to test Ansell's dedicated range of hand protection solutions for their industry. An unusual initiative to raise awareness around hand protection in a sector where the need is great - but still largely neglected.

According to a French survey*, 64% of construction workers prefer to work bare-handed instead of wearing protective gloves. The situation in other European countries will be much the same. This is striking, especially if you bear in mind that the building and construction sector has the highest level of exposure to overall occupational risk factors*, with the "upper extremities" being the most vulnerable parts. For some time now, Ansell has been on a quest to raise awareness in the sector about "hands being the most precious tool in any construction activity and needing protection". The 2008 Building and Construction Tour, featuring an old fire truck converted into a demo bus, visited the target group at their daily workplace – the construction sites. Causing them to stop and think...

Putting safety in your hands®

The road show, baptized "Putting Safety in your hands®", kicked off at the end of October, during Interbuild, the UK's biggest building and construction trade fair. Since mid-November, the bus has been

travelling to building sites near London, mainly in and around the new Olympic venues, before journeying to Glasgow. Trained hostesses helped building and construction workers discover Ansell's dedicated glove range for their particular sector and experience how Ansell's gloves fit like a second skin, whilst offering superb protection. A much-appreciated initiative!



Watch the Ansell [YouTube video](#) to get a taste of Ansell's demo bus

Dedicated video and poster

An [educational video](#) on Ansell's dedicated offering for the building and construction sector is downloadable from the website.

To help building and construction professionals choose the right glove for their particular job, Ansell has developed a [handy selection poster](#), which is also available at the website.

* Source: 4th European Working Conditions Survey (2005)

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Baker Hughes Norway discovers the luxury of 'the right glove for the right application'

Workplace safety is a key issue at all the facilities of Baker Hughes, a leading provider of worldwide products and services for use in oil and gas wells, pipelines and refineries. When it comes to hand protection, the branch in Stavanger, Norway, has recently set a shining example. After an extensive glove audit, most operators switched to more comfortable Ansell gloves to guard against the particular hazards they're exposed to.

"Exposure to hazardous chemicals, as well as more commonly used liquids and substances, like offshore mud or grease, are frequent at our sites," explained HS&E Specialist Marta Teigland. "Hand protection was available, but there was frequent confusion about what gloves to wear for what application." That lack of insight, leading to wrong protection levels, and complaints about the discomfort of some gloves, made Baker Hughes call in the help of Ansell. The results of the GuardianSM consulting service were staggering: the 16 different gloves Baker Hughes had been using for years only offered a 79.8% fit with the requirements, while the glove package Ansell recommended promised a 96% fit.

Everyone is convinced

Today, workers at Baker Hughes Stavanger feel securely protected by the [Touch N Tuff®](#), [HyFlex® 11-801](#) and [AlphaTec®](#), among other Ansell gloves. "People who had been working here for years, were rather skeptical about a change of gloves. But now that they've all experienced the superior comfort and protection levels of Ansell's gloves, tailored expressly to their application, everyone is convinced," Marta Teigland concluded.



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PowerFlex® 80-658 comes into the prizes at Sicurtech Expo 2008 in Milan

The new PowerFlex® 80-658 glove is unique in providing superior cut resistance extending to the forearm and the knitwrist. That market first didn't escape the notice of the panel of trade professionals at Sicurtech Expo 2008, Italy's leading trade fair on health and safety at work, which took place in November 2008. During a ceremony at the exhibition, the glove was awarded the Safety Award in the category 'outstanding product innovation.'

Intended for high cut-risk work handling glass, metal, scrap waste and recycling, Ansell's PowerFlex® 80-658 is the first three quarter dipped glove with a cut resistance level of 5 to offer extra forearm and wrist protection. Through the addition of cotton, the skin is isolated from direct contact with the cut-resistant yarns, resulting in a glove that is softer and more comfortable to wear than many cut-resistant gloves. The knit liner retains its properties through washing and is highly resistant to abrasion.

Cutting-edge innovations

Thanks to these properties, the jury of the Security and Safety awards recognized the new PowerFlex® as one of the most advanced solutions for health and safety at work. Especially the extreme cut resistance and the extended forearm protection of the glove were acknowledged as cutting-edge innovations in the industry. "We are very honoured to receive this

innovation award, which reinforces our position as a leading supplier of barrier protective solutions reducing occupational hazards and protecting personnel in the workplace," said Marcel Willems, Ansell's Marketing Director Occupational Healthcare upon receiving the award.



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Ansell leads the way in barrier protection for the food industry

Every day, over 4.3 million Europeans work in the food processing industry. Ansell provides them with a dedicated range of gloves that fulfill a twin role: protecting the workers' hands as well as the food products they handle. This dual approach towards hand protection, which has become commonplace these days, was quite innovative ten years ago. Ansell was the pioneer that helped revolutionize glove usage in the sector.

Sharp-edged tools, material and surfaces; temperature extremes; grease; bacteria and the harsh solutions and chemicals used to clean and sanitize work surfaces. These are only a few of the hazards workers in a food-processing environment are facing. The number of hand injuries in the industry is quite high, with musculoskeletal disorders due to repetitive hand and wrist exertions (often in cold temperatures) the number one occupational risk. Appropriate hand protection is, in other words, an absolute must. But unlike in most other industries, safety hazards in the food sector go beyond the protection of employees. With safe food being a rising concern these days, the food industry is getting increasingly regulated. So food products, too, have to be protected.



Avoid food contamination

Quite a while back, the European Union launched its first regulations to protect food products from contamination by "materials intended to come into contact with food". Commonly described as "food packaging legislation", work gloves reside under the very same directive. In spite of regular revisions, the basic principle of the regulation remains unchanged: as chemicals from plastics packaging or glove materials might migrate with food ingredients, thereby contaminating the food, they have to be controlled tightly.

Pioneering approach

The above principle was neglected in the food industry for many years: it was not until the end of the 90s that food legislation started to play a role in the selection of gloves. "At that time, we noticed that there was ample space for enhanced hand protection among food processing workers and decided to target the sector," Ivan Guinard, food expert at Ansell, recalled. "So we communicated extensively with industry insiders to gauge their requirements and we tried to gain an insight into food

legislation. This approach revolutionized the sector, as never before had any glove manufacturer developed a targeted solution for the industry that took into account the strict legislation."

proFood® and much more besides

The result of Ansell's commitment was a brand-new set of dedicated gloves for workers in food processing companies: Ansell's proFood® range. The gloves were launched in 1999 with an innovative marketing campaign that not only presented the range but also sensitized food-processing companies about the guidelines they had to follow, thereby underlining Ansell's expertise in the field. Ever since then, Ansell has been leading the way in research, technical expertise and innovation for food-handling gloves. The proFood® range has since been expanded and complemented with other Ansell gloves that are food-compatible and in full compliance with the toughest standards on food contact and food hygiene.



The right glove for the right application

Today, Ansell provides a solution for every application. Its main concern is that every worker selects the right glove for the right application. Meat cutters performing boning and breakdown work with knives, for example, need extremely cut-resistant gloves, such as the [proFood® Safe-Knit®](#) or the [new Vantage® proFood®](#). People handling slippery objects, like poultry, fish or red meat, might want the support of gloves with some extra grip. As it's not always simple to choose the right glove, in a sector with ever-changing regulations and a wide offering to choose from, Ansell gladly helps its distributors and end-users make the right choice and keeps them posted on food legislation. After all, by using the right gloves, both worker safety and productivity rises, while food safety is guaranteed. Three impressive benefits that no food processing company can neglect.

Providing bespoke hand protection solutions to all players

[The food industry](#) as a whole involves the entire food chain, from the production of raw materials (agriculture & fishing), thru' to food processing and customer services (food services, like hotels, restaurants and catering, and food distribution). Whereas Ansell's approach mainly focuses on the food processing operators (the biggest group of workers in the food industry), the product offering also promises great protection and comfort levels for all other players in the sector.

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Ansell fully complies with REACH legislation

On the 1st of December 2008 at midnight, the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) closed the six-month REACH (Registration Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) pre-registration period. European firms that make or import more than one tonne of a chemical substance per year, had to pre-register that chemical substance, if it is within a release agent on an article or within a preparation (mixture of chemical substances), by that day. And there was a massive response: well over two million pre-registrations were submitted, covering more than 100,000 chemical substances. Ansell successfully pre-registered 28, after a time-consuming process of analytical dissection for all the gloves, condoms, gels, lubricants, etc. produced worldwide.



The pre-registration of chemicals is the key first component of **REACH**. Pre-registration is required to allow the company to take advantage of the "phase in" period, before formal registration is required. REACH is the EU's ambitious system for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals, which came into force in June 2007. It was approved after years of studies and deliberations, started after a 1998 evaluation report of the European Commission had revealed the need for a new system. The former EU legislation framework on chemicals was a patchwork of different directives and regulations that did not really function properly. It made it difficult to determine the risks of many chemicals and took too long before measures were taken to ban chemicals with proven risks. In short: the former system hampered innovation and posed a hazard to both human health and the environment.

Industry responsibility

Of particular note in the new **REACH** system is the big responsibility that rests on the shoulders of the industry. The companies themselves have to know the risks of the chemicals they manufacture and/or use in the EU and manage them competently. REACH therefore stipulates that companies that import or manufacture over one tonne of a chemical compound per year have to register it in a central database. As this registration process is a very time-consuming, complex task for both industry and regulators, the registration of chemicals already on the market is to take place in three phases, spread over 11 years. To benefit from this phased process, REACH installed a pre-registration period, between 1st of June and 1st

December 2008. Companies who failed to pre-register, can no longer manufacture or import their chemicals, unless they make immediate formal registrations.

28 Ansell chemicals

Ansell successfully completed the preregistration task. "We submitted information on all the substances we use in or on our articles, in quantities of over 1 tonne per year, which are designed for release or within preparations we produce" explained Phil Bates, Ansell Regulatory Affairs Director EMEA. "And although a full technical dossier is now required to complete the formal registrations, through the 'phase in' period, the first step itself was already quite challenging. It required breaking down all our products, from our gloves and condoms to gels and lubricants, manufactured throughout the world, into their constituent chemical substances. In the end, the 28 chemicals of which larger quantities are imported per year, were listed and posted on the REACH-IT portal over October and November." The next step, now, for the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), is to publish all preregistered chemicals on its website, so that companies can identify potential registrants of the same substance and share data within the SIEF (Substance Information Exchange Forums) for each chemical substance. The majority of Ansell's chemicals will need full registration dossiers by 2018.

Substances of very high concern?

A second pillar of the **REACH** legislation where Ansell dutifully fulfilled its role is the notification of substances of very high concern (SVHC), i.e. chemicals with indications of impact on the environment and/or health. In October 2008, REACH published its first Candidate List with such SVHC chemicals. Companies now have the obligation to inform everyone involved in their supply chain if they use any of the Candidate List substances in concentrations over 0.1% w/w within their articles (eg gloves) or within preparations. Companies can continue to use these SVHCs up to October 2010 and then, only if application is made to the ECHA for "Authorisation for continued use of the SVHC", can companies continue to use them after that date. To avoid this process, Ansell has recommended a program to replace the hazardous compounds with alternatives, if available. For more information on Ansell's policy in this matter, [please refer to the Ansell website](#).

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