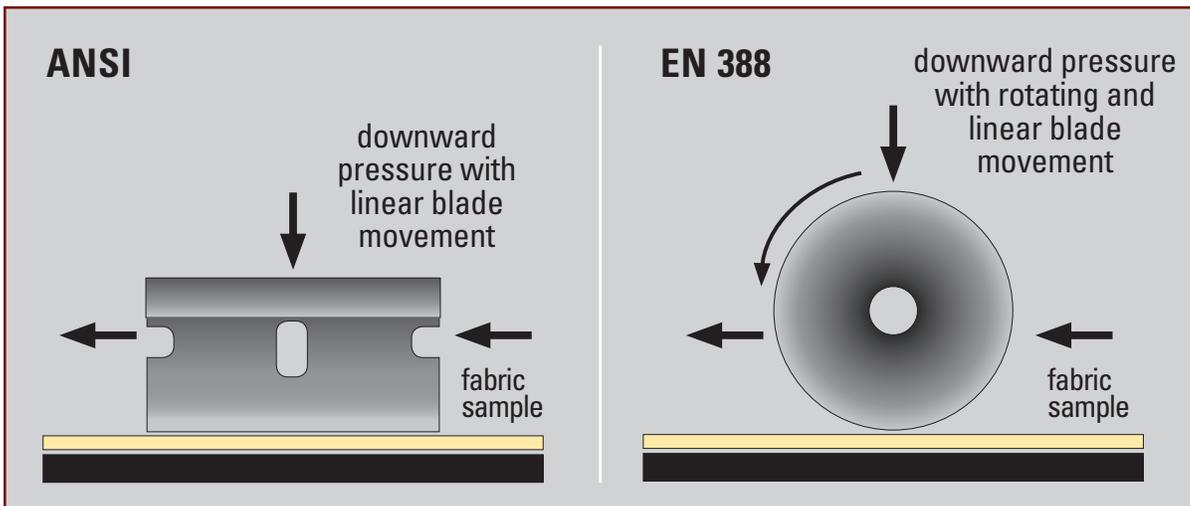




ABOUT CUT-RESISTANCE LEVELS AND TESTING ANSI/ISEA 105-2016 VS. EN 388

When people in the industry refer to the “level of cut resistance,” they are referring to the results of lab testing designed to replicate cut hazards. If you are living in North America, chances are you need to adhere to the ANSI standard; however, many in the industry don’t understand the difference between the tests and what the results mean. Here’s a little cheat sheet.

- In the U.S., the standard by which cut resistance is rated is ANSI/ISEA 105 (American National Standards Institute), which uses the ASTM F1790 / F1790M - 15 test method with the Cut Protection Performance (CPP) Tester. There are nine levels of cut resistance as opposed to the previous five levels.
- The mandatory standard in Europe for CE ratings of gloves’ cut resistance is EN 388, which uses the Coup Test (circular blade) and, when required, the updated ISO 13997 (TDM) test method.
- **The ANSI and CE cut resistance ratings are achieved using completely different testing parameters and apparatuses – the reported results are NOT interchangeable under any circumstances.**



The ANSI test is performed on test material being cut by a straight-edged blade under various loads while the blade is moving in a straight path. The EN test is performed using a circular blade (Coup Test) under a fixed load, while the blade moves back and forth across the test material.

If the glove is made of certain engineered yarns that increase their EN cut levels to 4 or 5, a second test must be performed using the ISO 13997 test (using a straight blade similar to that used in the ASTM method). This will cross-validate the glove’s cut-resistant performance rating.

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