

SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN:

January 28, 2010

Re: Nitrile Gloves Sold in the Building 301 Storeroom, NIST Gaithersburg

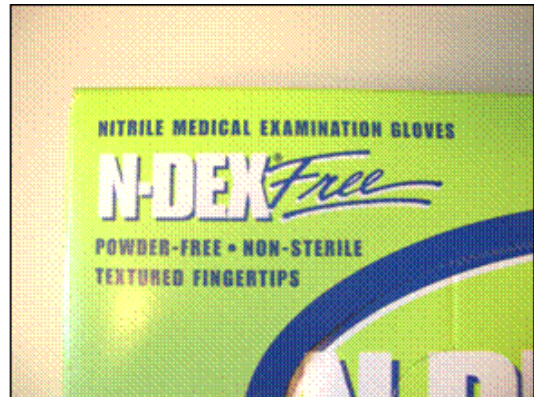
Last week, the Safety Office requested that all gloves be pulled off the shelf in the Building 301 Storeroom in Gaithersburg. The gloves in question were N-DEX Free nitrile gloves (#7705PFT in all sizes); see image of the box shown below. The reason for this action was that the gloves are intended for medical examination, as is clearly indicated on the box. At 4 mil thickness (0.10 mm), these gloves do not provide the required protection necessary from potential exposure to caustic chemicals; gloves that provide this type of protection are upwards of 10-20 mils (0.25-0.51 mm).

In the short term, the Safety Office recommends purchasing appropriate gloves from an external vendor. For the long term, the Safety Office is in the process of developing a system to provide the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), not just gloves, to Gaithersburg and Boulder staff given all the potential applications on our sites while not overburdening the storerooms with stocking every possible article of PPE. We intend to implement this solution in the third quarter of FY10.

Staff should also bear in mind the importance of selecting the appropriate PPE for the work to be performed. This should be a conclusion of the hazard review and considered only after all other types of control measures (e.g., engineering, administrative) have been implemented. While Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provide the best recommendations for appropriate PPE, Safety Office staff is available to offer suggestions, please call x5818.

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED:

All staff should review the type of glove they are using and ensure that it is appropriate for the work being conducted.



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