

To: The Biochemistry Department

Re: Protective gloves

From: David H. Heeley – Safety Officer

14th June, 2010

Dear All

The information in this email regarding protective hardware was sent to EVERYONE in the biochemistry department on Thursday 27th, May 2010.

The types of gloves that are available in our stores are:

- (i) Vinyl (powdered and non-powdered)
- (ii) Nitrile (blue)
- (iii) Unsupported Neoprene (black)
- (iv) Neoprene/natural rubber (yellow cuff, blue upper)

What to do? First, open the Ansell-Chemical Resistance Guide. Locate within the table the chemical that you are going to use. Second, check which type of glove is compatible for this chemical. As per above: (i) vinyl (snorkel); (ii) nitrile (sol-vex); (iii) unsupported neoprene (29-series) and (iv) neoprene/natural rubber (chemi-pro).

You may or may not be aware that vinyl gloves, which are the most common type stocked in the store room, offer LITTLE or NO protection against many organic solvents, including acetonitrile. For most organic compounds (but not all) nitrile is superior to vinyl. Overall, neoprene and rubber are the best, but they are bulky making fine-handling difficult.

Vinyl is effective against HCl, sulfuric acid and strong alkalis (NaOH and

KOH).

D.H.Heeley