



SAF-T-GARD
International, Inc.



DELIVERING
**WORKER SAFETY
SOLUTIONS**
for more than 85 years

The Voltgard® Test Lab is Equipped for Your DC Testing Needs



Electrical testing is not just reserved for alternating current (AC) voltages. For maximum safety, it is important to understand the application for use and test the rubber insulating equipment as close as possible to that environment.

While AC testing is applicable for general use, DC (direct current) testing is necessary for electrical gloves in applications where there is exposure to DC, including (but not limited to) electric vehicles (EV), both fully electric and plug-in hybrid, renewable power generation (wind and solar particularly) and electrified mass transit and transportation.

Moreover, the ASTM Specifications for Electrical Protective Equipment for Workers do include both AC and DC test voltages and maximum use voltages for safety. Therefore, it makes sense to DC test electrical gloves where there is exposure to DC energized circuits and equipment.

Saf-T-Gard® International Inc., a global market leader in electrical protective equipment for workers, is uniquely qualified to work with your facility and keep your employees safe and compliant. Our **Voltgard® Test Lab** is the largest, independent, NAIL4PET-accredited test lab for rubber insulating products in the United States.

- The **Voltgard® Test Lab** acts as the off-site lab for numerous auto manufacturers, automobile service and repair shops, public transportation, utilities, telecom companies, contractors, municipalities and industrial facilities nationwide by providing full-service testing and recertification of: Rubber Gloves, Sleeves, Blankets, Line Hose, Covers, Dielectric Footwear, Jumper Cables, Grounding Sets, Plastic Guards, Hot Sticks, Matting, Hoods, and Insulating Hand Tools.
- The Voltgard® facility is outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment for the complete testing of these products, including: Washing, visual inspecting, and electrical testing – all to applicable ASTM standards.
- All rubber protective equipment tested by the **Voltgard® Test Lab** undergoes this rigorous sequence to ensure that your employees are always using safe equipment.

Subscribe to Our Saf-T-Blog

SAF-T-BLOG



Did you know Saf-T-Gard has a blog on our website, which we post new articles to every three weeks?

Authored by subject matter experts, including Richard A. Rivkin, Saf-T-Gard CEO and Chairman of the Board, and the world's leading safety manufacturers, the blog topics range from hazard identification, regulatory standards, and the latest technologies and innovations in safety to help safety managers, workers and business owners across all industries stay informed, make better decisions and work more efficiently. Whatever safety challenge you face, count on Saf-T-Gard to deliver trusted advice backed by more than 85 years of service.

Click [here](#) to browse and read our current selection of blog articles and click [here](#) to subscribe to our blog on LinkedIn to be automatically notified when new articles are posted.

Do you have a topic that you would like to see explored in a blog article? Please e-mail LSeminara@saf-tgard.com.

**Shop Saf-tgard.com -
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Shop for Safety
Online Today!**

It is important to understand the application of the job at hand, as the **Voltgard® Test Lab** recommends testing rubber insulating PPE as close as possible to the environment that it will be used:

- All rubber insulating gloves are tested at AC voltages for general use and clearly marked with the AC maximum use voltage prior to shipment.
- All rubber insulating gloves tested at DC voltages are clearly marked with the DC maximum use voltage.

When it comes to protecting your electrical workers, don't trust just anyone with their safety. Trust the experts with more than 85 years of experience and excellence. Trust Saf-T-Gard. Do you have rubber goods that need to be tested?

Click [here](#) to access the **Voltgard® Rubber Insulating Products Testing Order Forms** to get started.

TEST TODAY

Prevent On-the-Job Eye Injuries with Saf-T-Gard® Visi-Gard® Safety Glasses and Goggles



According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 20,000 eye injuries occur in the workplace each year costing an estimated \$300 million in worker's compensation, medical treatment, and lost productivity according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

They range from superficial eye injuries like simple eye strain to severe trauma that can cause permanent damage, vision loss and blindness. Ninety percent (90%) of these injuries could have been prevented with the use of the appropriate eye protection.

Common causes for eye injuries include:

- Flying objects (bits of metal, glass)
- Tools that slip or malfunction
- Particles such as wood splinters, metal shavings or crystalline silica
- Spattered chemicals
- Harmful radiation
- Any combination of these or other hazards

Occupations with a high risk for eye injury include the following:

- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Carpentry
- Auto repair
- Electrical work
- Plumbing
- Welding
- Maintenance



Saftgard.com makes it easier than ever for visitors to find exactly what they are looking for by utilizing a guided navigation layout with a fully-optimized "smart" search engine. The responsive design enables use and access to more than 6,000 products with enhanced product content and imagery on your PC, smart phone, or tablet.

Moreover, existing Saf-T-Gard customers can link their account to a new Saftgard.com web login to review ALL past orders and invoices, create a "wish list" of favorite items, save carts to simplify the ordering/reordering process, and so much more! Buyers without an existing Saf-T-Gard account can register for one online, or they can still search, browse, and order on Saftgard.com without a Saf-T-Gard account.

We invite you to spend a few minutes at Saftgard.com, and if you have not already, please register for an account to enable online ordering. Click [here](#) for a shortcut to the registration page, and click [here](#) for detailed instructions on how to link your Saf-T-Gard account to a Saftgard.com web login.

Five Safety Tips



1. HANDS THAT DO WORK - Need protection from chemical, physical and electrical hazards.

2. HANDS THAT DO WORK - Need barriers to protect products and processes from contamination.

3. HANDS THAT DO WORK - Should have hand protection that is comfortable and fits properly.

4. HANDS THAT DO WORK - Can be cleaned and sanitized with safe yet industrial-strength hand cleaners and lotions.

How can eye injuries be prevented?

Know the hazards of the job and ALWAYS wear the appropriate eye protection for the application being performed. OSHA requires workers to use eye and face protection whenever there is a reasonable probability of injury that could be prevented by such equipment.

Personal protective eyewear, such as **goggles**, **faceshields**, **safety glasses** or **full face respirators** must be used when an eye hazard exists. The necessary eye protection depends upon the type of hazard, the circumstances of exposure, other protective equipment used, and individual vision needs.

In addition, employers need to take steps to make the work environment as safe as possible. This includes:

- Conducting an eye hazard assessment of the workplace
- Removing or reducing eye hazards where possible
- Providing appropriate safety eyewear and requiring employees to wear it

What is the difference between glass, plastic, and polycarbonate safety lenses?

All three types of safety lenses meet or exceed the requirements for protecting your eyes.

Glass lenses:

- Are not easily scratched
- Can be used around harsh chemicals
- Can be made in your corrective prescription
- Are sometimes heavy and uncomfortable

Plastic lenses:

- Are lighter weight
- Protect against welding splatter
- Are not likely to fog
- Are not as scratch-resistant as glass

Polycarbonate lenses:

- Are lightweight
- Protect against welding splatter
- Are not likely to fog
- Are stronger than glass and plastic
- Are more impact resistant than glass or plastic
- Are not as scratch resistant as glass

Saf-T-Gard offers a variety of stylish and OSHA and ANSI-compliant **Visi-Gard® Safety Glasses and Goggles** in in a multitude of styles, colors, coatings, shades and comfort/fit features to help reduce the chance of eye injury. Click [here](#) to shop them online, or call customer service at **1-800-548-GARD (4273)** today for more information or to place an order.

SEE VISI-GARD®

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5. HANDS THAT DO

WORK - Are also the hands that hug our loved ones.

QUESTIONS

Q&A

ANSWERS



Question - What is an OSHA guideline and how does it differ from a standard?

Answer - A guideline is a tool to assist employers in recognizing and controlling hazards. It is voluntary. Failure to implement a guideline is not itself a violation of the General Duty Clause of the OSH Act. Guidelines that OSHA develops will provide information to help employers identify ergonomic hazards in their workplaces and implement feasible measures to control those hazards.

Guidelines are more flexible than standards. They can be developed quickly and can be changed easily as new information becomes available with scientific advances. Guidelines make it easier for employers to adopt innovative programs to suit their workplaces, rather than inflexible, one-size-fits-all solutions to issues that may be unique to the industry or facility.

Saf-T-Gard Spotlight



Karl Henke is our Operations Manager, and he joined Saf-T-Gard in 2011.

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How to Develop an Effective Hearing Conservation Program



Our sense of hearing plays an essential role in how we communicate and experience the world, how we stay aware of our surroundings and thus, safe. That's why, when hearing loss becomes an all-too-common reality, taking its irreversible toll on individuals, businesses, and society, organizations need to step in and take preventive action.

A Hearing Conservation Program places hearing loss prevention at its core. This typically includes these six initiatives:

1. Noise exposure assessment
2. Audiometric testing
3. Hearing protection selection and fit testing
4. Employee training and education
5. Record keeping
6. Program evaluation

This article will review the fundamentals that go into a Hearing Conservation Program for your organization, including:

- What is occupational noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL)
- How to measure noise and monitor noise exposure
- Types of hearing protection devices
- Earplug fit testing
- How to motivate employees to wear hearing protectors

But first, what causes hearing loss?

What Karl likes about Saf-T-Gard:

"Being part of a company that provides safety-related products and services helping keep our customers safe, secure, healthy and happy."

What makes Karl's day:

"Learning new things about our business and industry while working with a talented group of co-workers in coordinated efforts to exceed our customers' expectations."

Karl's outside interests are:

"Working on my house and yard and restoring my classic car and keeping it in top-notch condition."

Anything else?

"I enjoy spending time with my family and friends."

OSHA Factoid



What is OSHA's interpretation of training requirements and what is expected when training must be conducted "at least annually"?

It is correct that the language may vary in certain OSHA standards. However, wherever OSHA standards require that employee training be conducted "at least annually," OSHA interprets that to mean that employees must be provided re-training at least once every 12 months (i.e., within a time period not exceeding 365 days.) This annual training need not be performed on the exact anniversary date of the preceding training but should be provided on a date reasonably close to the anniversary date taking into consideration the company's and the employees' convenience in scheduling. If the annual training cannot be completed by the anniversary date, the employer should maintain a record indicating why the training has been delayed

More than 5% of the world's population – around 466 million people – suffer from disabling hearing loss, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Hearing loss – ranging from mild difficulty in hearing conversational speech to profound deafness – is influenced by factors like genetics, certain diseases and medicines, and aging, but also by a factor well within our control – excessive exposure to loud noise.

How do you recognize NIHL?

1. It is permanent and progressive
2. It is usually bilateral (affects both ears)
3. It typically causes no pain
4. It leaves no visible trauma
5. It is often unnoticeable in its early stages and may take years to realize
6. It accumulates with each over-exposure

Its global economic impact for businesses is estimated at U.S. \$750 billion. But there are localized and personal costs associated with NIHL as well.

Hearing aids, while beneficial, can be expensive. Untreated hearing loss can lead to social withdrawal and depression, physical and psychological stress, resulting in reduced worker productivity and efficiency, and other associated chronic health conditions, such as cardiovascular diseases.

Hearing loss in the workplace also increases the risk of accidental injuries. According to one study, respondents with hearing troubles were twice as likely to experience an accidental injury than those with good hearing.

NIHL occurs across a wide spectrum of industries, but workers in some industries are more exposed to dangerous levels of noise. These industries are agriculture, mining, construction, manufacturing, utilities, transportation, and the military.

Studies show construction workers have a significantly increased risk of hearing loss compared to others, with increasing risk by work duration.

Signs that noise may be a problem in your workplace:

1. Employees hear ringing or humming after exposure to loud sounds
2. Noise is impeding communication so that employees must shout to be heard by a coworker an arm's length away
3. Employees experience temporary loss of hearing after leaving work

If you observe any of the symptoms above, it's time to measure environmental noise.

MEASURE

Hearing loss prevention starts with measuring noise levels and monitoring exposure to noise.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Noise Standard and Hearing Conservation Amendment ("Noise Standard"), a hearing conservation program is required "whenever employee noise exposures equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average sound level (TWA) of 85 decibels measured on the A scale (slow response) or, equivalently, a dose of fifty percent (50%).

So, employers are required to monitor all employees whose noise exposure exceeds 85dBA in 8 hours. This includes all continuous, intermittent and impulsive noise between 80 and 130dBA.

There are two commonly-used methods for assessing noise exposure levels:

1. Area sampling using a sound level meter

and when the training will be provided.

Please keep in mind that the term "at least annually" is generally regarded as indicating that circumstances which warrant more frequent training may occur. It is extremely important that employees are trained to protect themselves from all known workplace hazards, including new hazards which may result from changes in workplace practices, procedures, or tasks. For example, OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard at 29 CFR 1910.1030(g)(2)(v), provides for "additional training when changes such as modification of tasks or procedures or institution of new tasks or procedures affect the employee's occupation exposure." More frequent training may also be required when employee performance suggests that the prior training was incomplete or not fully understood.

As I See It



It is February 2024, and you have CHOICES. I guess your first choice is whether or not to continue reading. Thank you.

As employers, managers, supervisors, and team leaders, you have CHOICES regarding your safety program. Are you and do you want to be reactive or proactive? Being reactive kicks the can down the road until there is an injury or even worse. Being proactive means working with knowledgeable safety specialists to take advantage of new products and new technologies that enhance worker and facility safety in a cost-effective way. Here are a few examples.

Suppose you have workers in a noisy environment. Hearing loss may not manifest itself for years but is irreversible. You have

2. Personal sampling with a noise dosimeter, also called a personal sound exposure monitor

Sound level meters read the instantaneous or continuous noise level in a particular area at a particular point in time. Sound level meters are useful for evaluating the noise produced by a machine, but are only accurate for estimating long-term exposure when noise levels are constant in the area.

For mobile workers, or for assessing the long-term average sound level, the personal noise dosimeter gives a more accurate measurement of unprotected noise exposure. The dosimeter microphone is clipped on the shoulder near the ear.

The dosimeter remains on the worker for a certain sampling period – several hours, or even the entire workday – and continuously monitors the incoming noise. At the end of the sampling period, a readout shows the average equivalent noise exposure level for that employee over the entire sampling period.

CONTINUE READING

Watch the FREE 3M Metalworking Hazards Webinar ON DEMAND

Working with metal in an industrial setting can present a lengthy list of potential hazards. Flying particles, hot molten metal, respiratory issues from toxic gases, noise, heat, and the list goes on.

This session is facilitated by 3M Welding Specialist, Mike Hallock. It provides an overview of the key safety hazards during metalworking applications and offers some guidance on how to keep metalworkers safer on your site.

It will discuss the most common injuries and illnesses that occur in metalworking including the short and long-term effects and costs associated with each of these hazards. It will also outline the current regulations and those that are most commonly cited by OSHA.

The key hazards that will be discussed during this session include:

- Respiratory protection concerns including exposure to welding plume and fume, manganese, and hexavalent chromium
- Eye injuries from flying particulate or objects, foreign materials, contact with chemicals, and welding arc
- Arc radiation from exposure to visible, ultraviolet (UV) or infrared (IR) light
- The noise levels experienced with various metalworking applications, and how to prevent noise-induced hearing

CHOICES. Being reactive could mean waiting until there is a complaint or an OSHA inspection. Being proactive means measuring the noise level (is it above 85 db?) and providing workers with a selection of industrial ear protection products (earplugs or earmuffs) that will reduce the noise level while fitting properly and comfortably.

Suppose you have a food processing facility where hand knives are used. You have CHOICES regarding protecting workers from cuts, slashes, and punctures from the hand knives. Being reactive means supplying the cheapest metal mesh gloves which may not be the most hygienic and may require frequent repairs. Being proactive means selecting stainless steel mesh gloves that are on the USDA Accepted Equipment List and with no fabric straps to harbor bacteria and other contaminants.

Another example focuses on working at heights. You have CHOICES regarding industrial head protection. Being reactive could mean providing, and wearing, traditional hard hats until one falls off? Being proactive means following OSHA's lead and selecting, providing, and wearing newly-designed safety helmets with chinstraps.

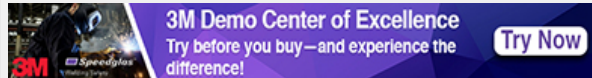
Our final example is the selection of your resource for safety products and PPE and, again, you have CHOICES. Being reactive carries the risk of not having the proper products when and where they are needed. Being proactive means partnering with an experienced and qualified safety specialist – hint hint! That's who we are and what we do – because we're Saf-T-Gard International – ***Bringing Workers Home Safely Since 1936.***

Sincerely,
Richard A. Rivkin, Saf-T-Gard CEO and Chairman of the Board

loss in workers

WATCH NOW

Speak with a 3M Representative and schedule a no-cost demo program, allowing you to trial select 3M powered air and welding equipment on site for 30 days.



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Saf-T-Gard is a major manufacturer, distributor, importer and exporter of safety solutions for industry since 1936.

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