

## A

**Acetate** – Scratch-resistant material used for faceshields/goggles that protects against chemical splash and light impact.

**ANSI (American National Standards Institute)** - Private organization that provides consensus standards that many manufacturers need to comply with (some OSHA regulations require that products and procedures conform to specific ANSI standards).

**APR (Air Purifying Respirator)** - this is a respirator that uses either a filter or an adsorbent media (charcoal cartridge) to keep contaminated atmospheres from entering the lungs.

**Arc Rating** – The maximum incident energy resistance demonstrated by a material (or a layered system of materials) prior to break open, or at the onset of a second-degree skin burn. Arc rating is normally expressed in cal/cm<sup>2</sup>.

**ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)** – Technical organization which develops standards on characteristics and performance of materials, products, systems, and services.

**ATPV (Arc Thermal Performance Value)** – Expressed in cal/cm<sup>2</sup>. Also called Arc Rating.

**Attenuation** – Reduction, expressed in decibels, of the sound intensity at a first location as compared with sound intensity at a second location. We use this term to help identify how much protection that a given hearing protection device is giving.

**Audiometric Testing** – Tests that are conducted to determine the hearing ability of a person. These tests may be used to establish an employee's baseline hearing, to identify any subsequent hearing loss, and to monitor the effectiveness of noise controls.

## B

**Biohazard** – Infectious agents presenting a potential risk to a person's well-being.

**Bloodborne Pathogen** – Virus or infection, such as Hepatitis B or HIV, that is present in blood and can be transmitted through blood or bodily secretions.

**Body Harness** – Distributes the arresting forces over the thighs, shoulders, and pelvis, and can be attached to a lanyard, lifeline, or deceleration device.

**Butyl** – Synthetic rubber which provides the highest permeation resistance to gases and water vapors. Does not offer the physical strength of natural rubber.

## C

**Carabiner** – Self-closing, self-locking steel or aluminum connector used to attach to an anchorage point.

**Carpal Tunnel Syndrome** – A common affliction caused by compression of the median nerve in the carpal tunnel. Associated with tingling, pain or numbness in the thumb and first three fingers.

**CBRN** – Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear.

**CFM** – Cubic Feet per Minute.

**CFR** – Code of Federal Regulations. A codification of rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government. The code is divided into 50 Titles representing the broad areas subject to federal regulations.

**Confined Space** – A space in which a hazardous

gas, vapor, dust or fume may collect or in which oxygen may be used up because of the construction of the space, its location, contents, or the work activity carried out in it. It is an area which is not designed for continuous human occupancy and has limited opening for entry, exits or ventilation.

**Corrosive** – A substance that will burn the skin or eyes on contact.

**CSA** – Canadian Standards Association. This group is very similar to ANSI.

## D

**dB (Decibel)** – Unit that expresses the relative intensity of sounds on a scale of 0 (least perceptible) to 130 (pain level).

**DC (Direct Current)** – Electric current that travels in one direction. Usually supplied by batteries or a transformer that changes a current from AC to DC.

**Degradation** – Change in physical properties due to erosion from chemicals.

**Dielectric** – Material that doesn't conduct or transfer a direct electric current.

**Direct Venting** – Series of holes on a goggle that allows direct air flow to the space behind the lenses. Shouldn't be used for splash because these vents will allow fluid through.

**DOT** – Department of Transportation.

**Dust** – Fine particles of a solid that can remain suspended in air. The particle size of a dust is larger than that of a fume. Dusts are produced by mechanical action, such as grinding. Some dusts may be harmful to an employee's health.

## E

**EH** – Electrical Hazard.

**Electric Arc** – Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.

**Electrolytes** – Essential salts and minerals contained in bodily fluids.

**Emergency Plan** – Detailed procedures for responding to an emergency, such as a fire or explosion, a chemical spill, or an uncontrolled release of energy. An emergency plan is necessary to keep order, and minimize the effects of the disaster.

**EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)** – Federal agency with environmental protection, regulatory, and enforcement authority.

**Ergonomics** – An applied science that studies the interaction between people and the work environment. It focuses on matching the job to the worker.

**Exposure Level** – Level or concentration of a physical or chemical hazard to which a person is exposed (most common for respiratory and noise hazards).

## F

**FDA (Food and Drug Administration)** – Responsible for ensuring that foods, drugs, biological products, medical devices, and cosmetics are safe, and accurately and informatively represented.

**Filter Holder** – Base plate that a prefilter would be placed on. Needed when not using a cartridge in conjunction with the prefilter. If using a cartridge, then the cartridge will act as the holder.

**Filter Retainer** – Top piece that holds the prefilter onto a cartridge or filter holder.

**Fit Test** – See Qualitative or Quantitative Fit Test. Required by OSHA. Must be satisfactorily completed before a respirator is worn in a contaminated area.

**Flame Arrester** – Screen found inside the spout of a safety can to prevent fire flashback to the can contents.

**Flame Resistant** – Made or treated to resist burning. Fabric self-extinguishes when the source of ignition is removed.

**Flammable Liquid** – A liquid with a flash point below 100°F, excluding gases.

**Flash Point** – The lowest temperature at which a liquid will give off enough vapors to form a mixture that will burn if ignited. The lower the flash point, the higher the risk of fire.

**Flock Lined** – Shredded fiber, usually cotton, applied to the inside surface of a glove. Helps absorb perspiration and aids in donning and doffing.

**FM (Factory Mutual)** – Nationally recognized testing laboratory and approved service recognized by OSHA.

## G

**Gauntlet** – Glove cuff 4" or more in length which gets wider towards the end.

**GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter)** – Device that protects people and equipment from ground faults or sudden equipment restarts after a power failure.

**Grain Leather** – Smooth external side of the hide. Provides durability and dexterity.

**Grounding** – Electrical connection of one or more conductive objects to the earth through the use of metal grounding rods or other devices.

## H

**Hazard** – The potential of any machine, equipment, process, material (including biological and chemical) or physical factor that may cause harm to people, or damage to property or the environment.

**Hazardous Material** – Any substance that may produce adverse health and/or safety effects to people or the environment.

**Halogen** – Light bulb which is brighter than fluorescent and krypton.

**Hasp** – Lockout device designed to prevent accidental equipment start-up.

**HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air Filter)** – At least 99.97% efficient against particulates down to a 0.3 micron diameter size. A P100 filter can be used in place of HEPA filters.

## I

**IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health)** – The maximum concentration of a chemical in the air to which one can be exposed (for up to 30 minutes) without suffering irreversible health effects when not using a respirator.

**Indirect Venting** – Allows only air through goggles, not liquid or particles. Commonly used in chemical applications.

**Intrinsically Safe** – Product that won't cause spark in an explosive environment.

**Isotonic** – Buffered to the same pH balance as the human eye.

## J

**Jersey** – Knitted material that is extremely soft and comfortable to wear.

## K

**Kevlar** – Cut-resistant, flame retardant fiber offers

# Glossary Of Terms K-Z



heat resistance and is often used in clothing and gloves.

**Knitwrist** – Knitted wristband prevents glove from falling off and debris from entering. Also keeps hands warmer.

## L

**Lanyard** – Flexible line used to secure a body harness to a lifeline or anchorage point.

**LED (Light Emitting Diode)** – Electrical device used as an indicator light and in flashlights.

**LEL (Lower Explosive Limit)** – Minimum percent of a combustible gas that could cause an explosion if exposed to any source of ignition.

**Lifeline** – Line provided for direct or indirect attachment to a worker's body harness, lanyard, or deceleration device. Good for horizontal or vertical applications.

**Lockout** – A specific set of procedures for ensuring that a machine, once shut down for maintenance, repair or other reason, is secured against accidental start-up or movement of any of its parts for the length of the shutdown.

**LOTO** – Lockout Tagout.

## M

**Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)** – A form that contains detailed information about the possible health and safety hazards of a product and how to safely store, use and handle the product. Under the federal Hazardous Products Act, suppliers are required to provide MSDSs for all hazardous materials, as a condition of sale.

**Metatarsal** – Top part of the foot above the toes and below the shin bone.

**Micron** – Unit of measure for particle size. The smaller the number, the smaller the particle.

**Microfiber** – Type of fabric created with fibers that are thousands of times smaller than fibers in conventional fabrics. Provides exceptional pick-up ability.

**Mid-Sole** – Protective sole, usually made of steel, that protects the underside of the foot against punctures resulting from stepping on sharp objects.

**MIG** – Metal Inert Gas.

**Mil** – 1/1,000 of an inch. Used in reference to glove thickness.

**Mists** – Small droplets of a liquid that can remain suspended in air. Mists can form when a vapor condenses back to its liquid state, or when a liquid breaks up (for example, by splashing or atomizing).

**MSHA** – Mining Safety and Health Administration.

**MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet)** – contains descriptive information on hazardous chemicals under OSHA's Hazard communication Standard. Provides precautionary information on the safe handling of the chemical, as well as emergency and first aid procedures.

**MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices)** – Defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all streets and highways.

## N

**Nebulizer** – Hand-held ball that produces a mist or cloud when squeezed. Used in fit testing applications.

**Neoprene** – Synthetic rubber that is lightweight and flexible even in temperature extremes. Has a

wide range of chemical and abrasion resistance.

**NFPA** – National Fire Protection Association.

**NFPA 70E** – The standard for electrical safety in the workplace.

**NiCad** – Nickel cadmium battery (a rechargeable style).

**NiMH** – Nickel metal hydride battery (a rechargeable style).

**NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health)** – Independent federal agency which tests and certifies respirators.

**Nitrile** – Synthetic rubber resists a wide range of chemicals, as well as punctures, cuts, snags, and abrasions.

**Nose Cup** – Part of a full face respirator that is designed to reduce fogging.

**NRR (Noise Reduction Rating)** – The number of decibels by which the surrounding noise level is reduced.

**Nuisance Dust or Particle** – Dust that does not cause disease or harmful effects when exposures are kept at reasonable levels.

**Nuisance Level** – Air concentration of a chemical below OSHA's permissible exposure limit.

## O

**OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration)** – Oversees and regulates workplace safety and health.

## P

**PAPR (Powered Air Purifying Respirator)** – Respirator system that uses a blower motor to pull in air and distribute it through a hose to the facepiece.

**Particulate** – Tiny pieces of dry or liquid matter (i.e. dust, fumes, mist, smoke).

**PEL (Permissible Exposure Limit)** – OSHA designated exposure limits to chemicals found in the air.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – Any device worn by a worker to protect against hazards. Some examples are: respirators, gloves, ear plugs, hard hats, safety goggles and safety shoes.

**PETG** – Material used for chemical and light impact protection.

**Pneumatic** – Air operated; used with air.

**Polycarbonate** – Extremely impact resistant material that blocks out 99.9% UV rays.

**Polyethylene** – Non-woven, lightweight plastic material that resists chemicals and moisture.

**Polypropylene** – Breathable, non-woven, lightweight thermoplastic material, commonly used in coveralls and hairnets.

**PPM (Parts per Million)** – Measures very low concentrations or contamination levels.

**Prefilter** – Used on air purifying respirators. Prefilter traps particles and helps prolong the life of the cartridge. May also be used without a cartridge.

**PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)** – Synthetic, abrasion-resistant material that protects against many acids, oils, fats, caustics, and petroleum hydrocarbons.

## Q

**Qualitative Fit Testing** – Tests the integrity of a respirator's seal by determining if the worker can smell or taste a test agent such as saccharin, Bitrex, irritant smoke, or banana oil.

**Quantitative Fit Testing** – Respirator is worn in a test atmosphere (sometimes a booth) while an instrument measures leakage into the respirator.

## R

**Repetitive Strain Injury** – A problem with the muscles, tendons or nerves that happens over time due to overuse. Examples of repetitive strain injuries include: carpal tunnel syndrome and tendonitis.

**Retainer** – Plastic ring that holds a cartridge or filter on a respirator.

**Rope Grab** – Device which attaches to a lifeline and provides a means of arresting a fall.

## S

**Safety Cuff** – Loose fitting, 2½" cuff allows glove to slip off if it becomes entangled.

**SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus)** – Supplied air system in which the air is supplied from a tank carried by the user.

**Self-Retracting Lifeline** – Decelerating device which allows freedom of movement. Extends and retracts with the worker. Locks when fall occurs.

**Shank** – Provides extra arch support in shoes and boots.

**Shock Absorber** – Allows dissipation of energy by extending the deceleration distance to reduce the fall arrest force.

**Shoulder Split Leather** – More economical than side split. Visible texture difference.

**Side Split Leather** – Most durable split leather. Provides the greatest protection.

**Spectra** – Strongest cut and burn-resistant fiber available (same term as Dyneema).

**Supplied Air** – Breathable air supplied to a worker's mask/hood from a source outside the contaminated area.

**Supported Glove** – Has a cloth liner for added comfort, support, sweat absorption, and wear.

## T

**Tie-Off** – Connect to an anchorage point.

**TIG** – Tungsten Inert Gas. A form of welding.

**Type 1 Safety Can** – Dispense and fill from a single opening.

**Type 2 Safety Can** – Has fixed nozzle and separate openings (except for the Uno can by Justrite) for dispensing and filling for a higher level of safety.

## U

**UL (Underwriters Laboratories)** – An independent organization which operates laboratories to investigate devices and materials for potential hazards.

**Unsupported Glove** – Gloves without any type of fabric lining.

**USDA (United States Department of Agriculture)** – Monitors meat and poultry facilities for proper handling and packaging.

## V

**Vapor** – Gaseous form of substances which are normally in the solid or liquid state at room temperature and pressure.

**Vinyl** – Abrasion-resistant, synthetic polymer that resists some acids, oils, fats, caustics, and petroleum hydrocarbons.