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IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON
LATEX GLOVE POLICY

1. Protective gloves should be worn for all work involving handling of materials where contact may present a hazard to health and where risk of exposure cannot be avoided through more reliable means of control e.g. elimination, substitution or containment.
2. Selection and use of gloves should be in accordance with the Good Gloving Practice guidelines. These can be found on the Occupational Health Service web pages:
Link: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum/occhealth/advice/glovecpolicy.htm>
3. Use of pre-powdered latex gloves is prohibited in Imperial College, because of the risk of these provoking dangerous allergic reactions.
4. Use of disposable non-powdered latex gloves is permitted provided that:
 - Latex provides a distinct advantage over alternative gloving materials for the task,
 - The reason for selecting latex is documented in a risk assessment,
 - The gloves meet the following quality criteria:
 - a. The extractable protein level is less than 50 micrograms/gram (measured by the modified Lowry assay), and
 - b. The available residual accelerator is less than 0.1% w/w total residual accelerator.

The standard disposable latex glove available via College Purchasing Preferred Laboratory suppliers meets the quality criteria.

5. Where latex gloves are used, users must be provided with information on the risk of latex allergy, information on how to recognise possible allergic reactions to latex and on the need to report suspicion of allergic reactions to the College OH Service.

A suitable user information leaflet is available on the OH Service web pages on Spectrum

Link: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum/occhealth/advice/glovelatexallergy.htm>

6. Suitable alternative gloves must be provided for users with diagnosed latex allergy. Advice on any additional necessary precautions should be sought from the College OH Service.
7. The use of flock-lined re-useable latex gloves is permitted for hand protection in general cleaning work.