



SENTINEL
BY SHOWA

**THE CONSTRUCTION
LEADER'S GUIDE TO
SOLVING THE "GLOVE IN
THE POCKET" PROBLEM**



[SUMMARY

If you walk onto any job site, you will witness a familiar sight: skilled trade workers handling sharp metal, wire, or concrete with bare hands, while their issued safety gloves sit tucked neatly into their back pockets.

This phenomenon, the “Glove in the Pocket” syndrome, is the leading root cause of recordable hand lacerations and puncture injuries across the construction industry. While HSE management often views non-compliance as a behavioral discipline issue, field data reveals a different truth: *workers remove their gloves because traditional safety gear impedes dexterity, causes severe hand fatigue, and lacks touch screen compatibility.*

This eGuide provides a strategic blueprint for construction leaders to diagnose the root causes of non-compliance, standardize tool crib SKUs, and eliminate “glove-in-pocket” behavior permanently using the Sentinel by SHOWA framework.

THE DIAGNOSIS: WHY GLOVES END UP IN POCKETS

When a worker tucks away their hand protection, they are making a conscious trade-off between safety and job performance. To solve the problem, HSE Managers and Project Leads must understand the four primary drivers of worker non-compliance:

1.

DEXTERITY LOSS

INABILITY TO FEEL SMALL SCREWS, WIRES, OR HARDWARE

Loss of Tactile Sensitivity:

Legacy cut-resistant gloves are thick and bulky. When a carpenter needs to pick up a fine fastener, or an electrician needs to feel a wire gauge, the glove comes off.

2.

DIGITAL ISOLATION

REMOVING GLOVES TO USE SITE TABLETS & TOUCHSCREENS

Digital Workflow Interruption:

Modern construction sites rely on digital sign-offs, BIM model checking, and mobile checklists. Standard gloves force workers to remove hand protection dozens of times a day to tap a screen—creating constant windows of vulnerability.

3.

THERMAL STRESS & SWEAT

SWEATY PALMS LEADING TO SKIN IRRITATION

Thermal Strain & Sweating:

Non-breathable coatings trap moisture inside the glove. Within two hours, workers experience uncomfortable “pruning” and heat rash, prompting them to leave gloves off to dry their hands.

4.

HAND FATIGUE

STIFF, HEAVY-GAUGE FABRICS STRAINING HAND MUSCLES

Muscle Fatigue & Stiffness:

Cheap or improperly engineered cut-resistant yarns force workers’ hands to work against the glove’s natural resistance with every flex, leading to premature hand fatigue over a 10-hour shift.

THE DUAL COST: HSE SAFETY RISK VS. COMMERCIAL MARGIN DRAIN

The “Glove in the Pocket” problem impacts the site’s key stakeholders in very different, yet equally damaging ways:

THE HSE PERSPECTIVE

LTIFR Spikes:

Hand lacerations represent over 40% of all recordable site injuries. A rising Total Recordable Incident Rate threatens HSE compliance and damages the company’s tender reputation during bidding.

Audit Trail Failures:

Subcontractor teams using unauthorized or improper gloves during audits result in stop-work notices and regulatory fines.

THE OPERATIONAL/PROJECT LEAD PERSPECTIVE

Project Downtime:

A minor cut to a worker puts them on light duty or offsite for days. In a tight labor market, losing a skilled tradesperson delays critical path milestones.

PPE Margin Drain:

Buying “cheap” disposable gloves that shred in two days leads to massive wastage and bloated operational costs compared to long-lasting premium solutions.

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THE SOLUTION: THE 3 PILLARS OF HIGH-COMPLIANCE PPE

To keep gloves on workers' hands, hand protection must satisfy
'The 3 Pillars of High-Compliance Design':

HIGH-COMPLIANCE PPE

1.

ULTRA-LIGHTWEIGHT YARNS

DURACOIL - EN388: 2016 CUT LEVEL D TO F

Ultra-Lightweight Cut Resistance:

Utilize advanced micro-engineered yarns, such as SHOWA DURACoils or S-Tex®, that blend high cut defense (D-F) into ultra-lightweight 13-gauge, 15-gauge, or 18-gauge knits. This delivers maximum laceration protection with the tactility of a second skin.

2.

HIGH-BREATHABILITY & MOISTURE WICKING

ENGINEERED LINERS

Active Moisture & Thermal Control:

Incorporate breathable membrane technologies (such as TEMRES) or microfiber moisture-wicking liners (such as RECYCLED MFT PRO) that actively pull sweat away from the skin, preventing thermal buildup and keeping hands cool and dry.

3.

SEAMLESS TOUCHSCREEN COMPATIBILITY

ZERO GLOVE-REMOVAL

Native Touchscreen Integration:

Ensure all general handling and cut-resistant gloves feature touchscreen-compatible palm coatings (like SHOWA S-TEX). Workers can tap tablets, complete site checklists, and answer calls without ever exposing bare skin to hazards.

STANDARDIZING THE SITE: THE 4-GLOVE CONSTRUCTION MATRIX

Eliminate PPE chaos and “glove in pocket” behavior by consolidating site inventory into four high-performance, standardized SKUs:

OPERATIONAL SITE ZONE	IDENTIFIED HAZARD	STANDARDIZED SHOWA SOLUTION	KEY FEATURES & PERFORMANCE SPECS
1. Precision Trade & Electrical	Fine hardware handling, light cut hazards	SHOWA 234 or DURACoil Alpha XC510	15g/18g ultra-light HPPE, EN 388:2016+A1:2018 Cut level D
2. Heavy Structural & Rigging	Razor-sharp steel, severe crushing points	SHOWA S-TEX Alpha XC821 or S-TEX 581	EN 388:2016+A1:2018 Cut Level E-F, Hagane Coil® tech, TPR back-of-hand impact shields
3. Concrete & Wet Chemical	Caustic wet cement, solvents, mud, epoxies	SHOWA CS720 or 377	Liquid-proof nitrile/PVC, EN ISO 374 Type A chemical burn protection
4. Outdoor Winter Labor	Freezing rain, ice, thermal stress	SHOWA 477 or TEMRES 282	Waterproof, thermal fleece lining, TEMRES breathable membrane. EN 511:2006



TAKING ACTION: LAUNCH YOUR SENTINEL ON-SITE TRIAL

Fixing site compliance and reducing PPE waste does not require extra budget or operational disruption.

Through Sentinel by SHOWA and the Sentinel 4-Week Trial Program (4-WTP), SHOWA safety experts partner with your site team to audit, test, and prove performance.

- **Zero Financial Risk:** Complete access to trial glove samples and site hazard mapping at no cost.
- **Worker Buy-in:** Involve your team directly in feedback surveys. When workers help choose the gear, compliance naturally increases.
- **Turnkey ROI Deliverables:** Receive a custom, audit-ready Hand Protection Compliance Manual for HSE files and a Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) savings breakdown for project management.



READY TO SOLVE THE “GLOVE IN THE POCKET” PROBLEM ON YOUR JOB SITE?

Search **SHOWA Group Sentinel** or
contact your regional SHOWA specialist
today to request your complimentary,
on-site Sentinel Survey.



Find out more about
SHOWA's solutions for the
construction industry.

