

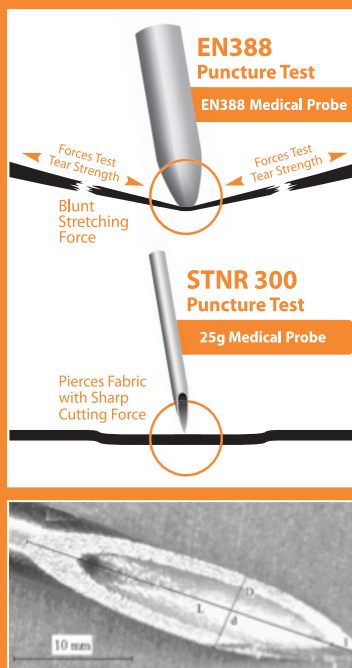
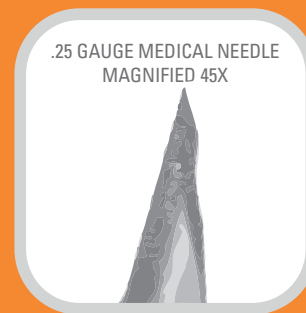
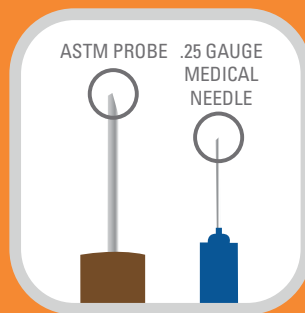
PROBLEM WITH INDUSTRY NEEDLE TESTS

HexArmor® products are tested against competitors using a modified EN388/ASTM F1342-05 with a medical needle substituted for the standard probe. This simulates real world situations with needle risks.

An article published in the Journal of ASTM international (Journal of ASTM International, Vol. 5, No. 1, Paper ID JAI101364) stated:

“It has been shown that the protection level of protective gloves measured using the current puncture-resistance standards is not relevant when dealing with medical needles.”

This finding highlights the difference in measuring needle-resistance with a probe that has very different design. The picture below shows the different probe design for the ASTM/EN388 and a standard .25 gauge needle.

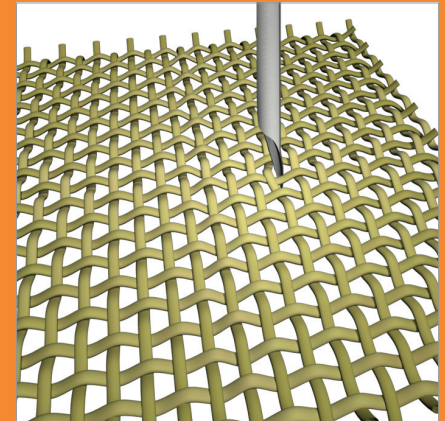
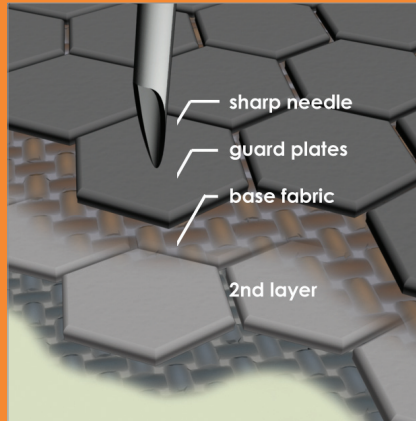


THE REAL STORY

- Needles are sharp, beveled cutting instruments designed to pierce the skin. To stop them you need to stop the cutting action by putting something hard in front of them, such as the protective guard plates found in SuperFabric® brand materials.
- ASTM/EN388 test probes are rounded and tear fabric instead of cutting as it penetrates. This rounded ASTM/EN388 tip functions more to test bust strength whereas the .25G medical needle tests true needle resistance.
- One well known notified body, SATRA, has realized the deficiency and designed a new test M18 which is similar to the testing procedure used at HexArmor.
- Various testing bodies throughout the world have acknowledged this deficiency and are adapting standards to meet this. Two examples are the Canadian research organization IRRST and the ASTM F23 Standards committee, who are working together to design a standard that uses the same test procedures as tested herein.

THE HEXARMOR DIFFERENCE

HexArmor needle-resistant products work by layering SuperFabric® materials over each other. SuperFabric® guardplates block and deflect needle hazards, or trap and arrest them in the small gaps between guard plates. Multiple aligned layers of fabric provide extra resistance against needle hazards.



HEXARMOR NEEDLE PROTECTION ADVANTAGE

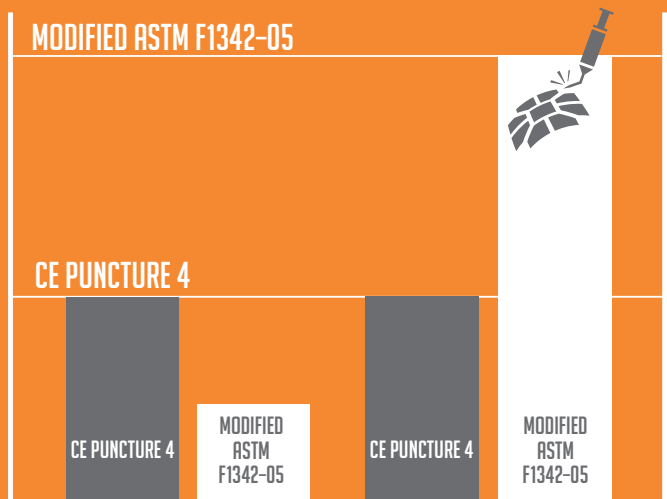
- Layered guardplates maximize resistance to all gauges of needles, providing highest needlestick-resistance available by the layering of SuperFabric® brand material.
- Tested using actual 25 gauge needles (modified ASTM 1342-05 test)

WHAT THIS MEANS

HexArmor products are tested in real world applications and are proven to reduce needlestick injuries. Using the correct test will ensure you have the right glove to protect your employees. In the example on the right, both gloves have a CE puncture rating of 4 (maximum), but resistance to .25 gauge medical needles is very different between the two.

BE CAUTIOUS OF GLOVES THAT RATE CE 4 FOR PUNCTURE, THEY MAY NOT PROVIDE SUITABLE NEEDLE PROTECTION.

NEEDLESTICK PROTECTION ADVANTAGE



Typical CE 4 Puncture Glove

HexArmor
WITH SuperFabric®
SHARPSMASTER™ II 9014

*ASTM Paper Titled "Influence of Medical Needle Characteristics on the Resistance to Puncture of Protective Glove Materials," Journal of ASTM International, Vol. 5, No. 1, Paper ID JAI101364, Available online at astm.org