



# Understanding glove quality standards – AQL and why it matters

Whether during surgery or in a cleanroom environment, a glove's most important function is to act as a barrier. Even the tiniest hole poses a safety risk, which is why glove quality standards are so important.

## How can you be sure of quality?

Gloves for use in medical environments or as PPE are tested according to international standards and are required to meet certain Acceptable Quality Levels (AQLs).

The **water-tightness test for freedom from holes** is a key indicator of glove quality. It is a rigorous test to detect pinholes that could affect the gloves' barrier integrity.

## The AQLs for sterile medical gloves for this test are set at:

- ASTM - AQL 1.5<sup>1</sup> (US)
- EN - AQL 0.65<sup>2</sup> (EU)

The AQL sampling schemes establishes the testing criteria and assesses product quality.



**Lower AQL**  
= more stringent production requirements  
= higher glove quality

## Biogel® meets an industry leading AQL

Mölnlycke's Biogel range demonstrates our exceptional commitment to quality, exceeding and leading industry standards with an AQL of **0.4** (freedom from holes) for excellent and reliable performance<sup>3</sup>.

If you would like to learn more about AQL and glove quality in general, or would like to explore the Biogel range, just contact your local Biogel team.

1. EN 455 -1: Requirements and testing for freedom from holes  
2. ASTM D5151-19: Standard Test Method for Detection of Holes in Medical Gloves  
3. Summary of Technical Documents. Mölnlycke Health Care. Data on file.