



in touch

The Ansell Newsletter

Bigger hands require bigger gloves!

New on AnsellCares

Editorial

A beach ball set ... for your answers!

1

Ansell's quest for excellence reaches Finland

A powerful message on Ansell solutions for the Polish market

2

New undercover partner for Clinique Herbert: Gammex® PF Underglove

"Undercover" campaign reaps award

3

EN standard on biological safety of gloves updated

Improving health conditions: Ansell and Special Olympics join forces

4

Bigger hands require bigger gloves!

Another world first from Ansell: our best-selling Gammex PF® glove now comes in size 9.5, a good half size larger than the biggest surgical gloves on today's European market.



The demand for a larger surgical glove came from the surgeons themselves. Quite a few of them suffer from hand fatigue, compromised circulation to the fingers and increased perspiration

due to over-tight gloves. A larger size will really come in handy – especially when double gloving. So Ansell decided to add a size 9.5 to its [Gammex PF](#) range, which has been the most popular surgical glove ever since its launch.

For many surgeons who've been using a size 9 until now, the launch of the 9.5 is good news. This additional choice will result in something closer to a custom-fit, and should considerably reduce end-of-day hand fatigue. Another token of Ansell's concern for providing the very best solutions in the fields of both protection and comfort....

New on AnsellCares

Your feedback teaches us that more and more InTouch readers are finding their way to the AnsellCares website. To keep you posted on what's hot in hand protection, we've recently added two more keynote lectures which are available, as always, in nine languages:

- [Hand Eczema](#), by Dr Brehler, Dermatologist at the Munster University hospital in Germany: a lecture on allergies and skin irritation due to glove wearing.

- [Prevention of VRE Transmission](#), by Dr Jarvis: a lecture on Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococcus (VRE), one of the five most common pathogens in healthcare- associated infections.

A beach ball set ... for your answers!

Let's lift that holiday feeling... We've reserved a small summer gadget for you: a nice beach ball set.

It is all yours if you just take a few minutes of your time to fill out our [online questionnaire](#). Thanks a lot and ...
happy holidays!

Editorial



Dear reader,

To us, at Ansell Professional Healthcare, July is the start of a new fiscal year – so a good time to look back and take a 'peep' into the future ...

The past year has been an exciting one for us. The highlights were our new Gammex® PF Underglove, the surgeon's premier undercover partner, and the unique Ansell Cytostatic Permeation and Ansell Virus Penetration Programs (ACPP and AVPP), which are gaining recognition the world over.

What do these highlights have in common? They both testify to our quest for excellence and our sharp customer focus. By keeping in close touch with you, we try to understand your needs and cater to them.

In this Ansell InTouch newsletter, you'll find further proof of our customer-orientedness (e.g. a 9.5 Gammex® PF), information on product updates and echoes from the field. And we kindly ask you to complete an online survey, which will, again, help us keep our finger on the pulse...

While many of you will be relaxing, adventuring or enjoying culture, we will be getting ready for a challenging new year with many new products and solutions. More on this in the next edition of Ansell InTouch.

For now, enjoy the reading and have a great – and safe – summer holiday!

Werner Heintz
Sr Vice President Regional Director Europe,
Ansell Healthcare



Ansell's quest for excellence reaches Finland

How are medical gloves designed and manufactured? What are the latest developments in the field of latex allergies? How does Ansell make sure its gloves provide ultimate protection? Finnish surgeons, operating room nurses, hygienists, etc. who attended the Glove Day in Helsinki on the 14th of March, got a ready answer to these – and many other - questions.



It was [Berner International](#), the exclusive distributor of Ansell medical gloves, who set up the successful Glove Day in Helsinki and invited Ansell along. On the agenda were seven high-content presentations by keynote speakers, including people from Berner International, the renowned professor Kristiina Turjanmaa, an expert in latex allergies, and two Ansell representatives.

Quest for excellence

In her general introduction to Ansell Healthcare, Director of Global Marketing Chrystelle Fontan entered into detail on the glove manufacturing process and the standards for surgical and examination gloves. The message she got across was clear: Ansell continually strives for excellence, in all its activities. Customer feedback has a key role to play in that: to ensure that our solutions respond to customer needs, we keep in close touch with our markets. In a second presentation, Chrystelle zoomed in on the future of Ansell and of the glove market as a whole.

Unique testing protocol

Chrystelle's assertions about excellence were confirmed by Eric Boeckmans (Business Development Manager EMEA), who presented the Ansell Cytostatic Permeation Program ([ACPP](#)) and Ansell Viral Penetration Program ([AVPP](#)). "The protocols are



The unique ACPP testing device on display

unique in that they allow us to dynamically measure the permeation and penetration resistance of gloves against dangerous substances. Existing tests – and norms – only take static test results into account", said Eric. "Our efforts in ACPP and AVPP testify to our quest for excellence."

Customer feedback

Like Chrystelle said, customer feedback is of great importance to Ansell. That is why, at the end of the event, Berner International and Ansell left ample room for questions, debate and interaction: the QA session was used to the full and views were exchanged eagerly.

A powerful message on Ansell solutions for the Polish market

On the 29th of May, Eric Boeckmans had the opportunity to repeat the powerful message he had given during the Finnish Glove Day: the Ansell Cytostatic Permeation Program (ACPP) and Ansell Virus Penetration Program (AVPP) testify to Ansell's continual quest for quality. His presentation was one of ten interesting lectures at the Polish Glove Day, set up by Ansell's regional distributor Mercator.

Décor of this year's Glove Day was Rytro, a mountain village about two hours' drive from Cracow. Over 100 Polish surgeons, operating room staff and hygienists were rewarded for their attendance with a series of attention-grabbing lectures on hot topics in the field of hand protection and other operating room issues.

Guest speakers, including eminent professors like Dr Brehler from the University of Munster (Germany), provided an insight into latex allergies, occupational allergy and exposures, glove tender law and its implementation, organ transplantation and acceptance, etc.

ACPP, AVPP and AnsellCares

Ansell speakers were Eric Boeckmans who enlarged on the Ansell Cytostatic Permeation Program ([ACPP](#)) and the Ansell Viral Penetration Program ([AVPP](#)) and Didier Bonjean (Senior Development Advisor - EMEA). Didier introduced Ansell's latest marketing tools: a brand-new corporate video and a video on glove manufacturing, both in fluent Polish. He then zoomed in on the [AnsellCares](#) educational program, which is gaining favour among medical staff worldwide.

To be continued

The Poland Glove Day ended with an enjoyable dinner in a typical mountain chalet where every attendee could sample the local flavour of the Polish



The brand-new Ansell corporate video: also available in Polish!

highlands. "An ideal opportunity to network and swap experiences in a convivial atmosphere and the perfect finale to a rewarding day," concluded Didier Bonjean. Ansell and [Mercator](#) are determined to repeat this successful initiative in 2008.

New undercover partner for Clinique Herbert: Gammex® PF Underglove

Situated within easy reach of the ambulances of the big Alpine winter sports resorts, the Clinique Herbert hospital is particularly busy during the winter months. With one medical intervention after another the surgeons were, until recently, confronted with serious problems of hand irritation and red skin on the forearms. But they've found a new undercover partner... Thanks to Ansell's Gammex® PF Underglove, they are now leaving the operating theatre with soft hands and supple skin!



The Clinique Herbert, founded on the heights of Aix-les-Bains in the French Alps in 1980, is a surgical hospital, treating mainly orthopaedic cases, with a very solid reputation in the treatment of ski-ing casualties. With a capacity of 89 beds and ca. 100 healthcare staff, including 12 surgeons, the hospital has a surgical throughput of over 24 000 cases per year. During the three winter months, Doctor Thierry Verjux, one of the three orthopaedic surgeons, performs an average of over 150 interventions on victims of ski accidents, on top of his day-to-day consultations.

Protect hands against punctures

At the Clinique Herbert, like in all hospitals, orthopaedic surgeons run a high risk of receiving percutaneous exposures to bloodborne pathogens, from patients with hepatitis (HBV HCV) and HIV. "The tools and equipment we use and the many orthoplasties we install require quite some pressure. Consequently, the risk of glove puncture – and, as such, blood contamination – is even more likely than during general surgery," explained Dr. Verjux. "Now and then our gloves get stuck in the axes of our instruments. Not to mention bone splinters, which cause perforation

without our knowledge. The breached glove barrier is only noticed when the gloves are removed."

A never-ending stream of medical interventions

It's not unusual for doctor Verjux to be in the operating theatre for 12 interventions on end, in wintertime. The uninterrupted glove wearing and the frequent hand washing with aggressive disinfectants had, until recently, disastrous consequences for the skin. "At the end of every winter I had the feeling that my hands and forearms were all redness and irritation," the man recalled.

High quality and low allergenicity

To reduce the perforation rate, and the attendant risk of exposure, the surgeons of the Clinique Herbert began to double glove, changing their gloves every hour. In addition, the medical team brought in new hand protection and washing measures. In an effort towards greater harmonization, the management decided to rely on one, single supplier for its medical glove range. Ansell was selected because of the impeccable quality of its services and of its products, including (and not least) very low allergenicity thanks to a near-total lack of latex proteins and endogenous allergens.

A winning combination

"We chose a winning combination of hydro-alcoholic solutions and powder-free undergloves," Dr. Verjux continued. "I got an opportunity to test Ansell's Gammex PF Underglove over an entire skiing season. It was my very first winter without any serious skin problems. With the green gloves – which makes us look a bit like extraterrestrials – the incidence of excess transpiration and humid hands arenegligible. The gloves have a high tear resistance and don't pinch at the end of one's fingers; they fit perfectly and have a softer 'feel' than other gloves. On top of that, Ansell's

HydraSoft® technology, which is integrated into the inner coating) ensures easy donning, while hydrating the skin at the same time. Consequently, it protects the skin from rashes due to long glove wearing and frequent contact with antibacterial solutions."

Protection, dexterity and comfor

By choosing Ansell's Gammex® PF Underglove, the Clinique Herbert ensures optimal protection for its surgeons against infectious diseases and reduces the allergy risk for healthcare staff and latex-sensitive patients alike. In addition, the glove provides anatomical comfort and higher dexterity levels. « Since I've been using the Gammex PF Underglove in combination with the hydro-alcoholic solutions, my fingers have remained supple and I no longer suffer from irritation of the forearm », Dr. Verjux concluded.



"Undercover" campaign reaps award

A new member of the successful Gammex family, the [Gammex® PF Underglove](#) is a surgeon's perfect undercover partner for double gloving. Its mission is identical to that of the surgeon: to provide optimal protection during (risky) operations. Ansell teased the healthcare sector with a themed campaign to coincide with the launch of the Gammex PF Underglove. The campaign was very well received!



EN standard on biological safety of gloves updated

Like all glove manufacturers, Ansell is required to check its gloves for biological safety, such as evidence of skin irritation. To regulate how we should conduct these biological safety tests and how to label our gloves, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) issued the EN455-3 standard for single-use medical gloves. Last year, this standard was revised and updated. So what's new in this edition?

	Comparison Between EN 455-3:1999 and EN 455-3:2006	
	EN 455-3:1999	EN 455-3:2006
Risk Assessment	Risk Analysis in accordance with EN 1441	Risk Management in accordance with EN ISO 14971
Powder free definition	No definition	Gloves must have under 2mg of powder
Caution Statement	«(Product) contains natural rubber latex which can cause allergic reactions»	«(Product) contains natural rubber latex which can cause allergic reactions, including anaphylactic responses»
Powder Labelling	Powdered gloves must be labelled as such	Gloves must be labelled as powdered or powder free
Wording not allowed	hypoallergenicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any term suggesting relative safety, such as low allergenicity, hypoallergenicity or low protein Any unjustified indication of the presence of allergens

EN455-3:2006, replacing its 1999 predecessor, was approved by the [CEN](#) in October 2006 and recently implemented by the CEN member bodies. The updated standard sets several new requirements. These include, for example, updates on the methods for monitoring the process

limit of leachable protein in natural rubber gloves and the endotoxin contamination of sterile gloves; tightly defined limits for leachable powder, residual chemicals and endotoxin content; new guidelines for the test reports, etc. Distributors and end-users, however, will mainly notice the

different labelling on our single-use latex gloves.

Latex symbol and warning statement
To comply with the new directives, medical gloves for single use containing natural rubber will now contain the following or equivalent warning statement: "Contains natural rubber latex which may cause allergic reactions, including anaphylactic responses". In addition, they will now be labelled on the packaging with the following symbol:



As you'll soon notice, the packaging of all Ansell latex gloves will change so as to comply with the above-mentioned guidelines.

Improving health conditions: Ansell and Special Olympics join forces

Admiration, amazement and respect. These are the feelings we brought home after attending the inauguration day of the 26th Belgian Special Olympics. Combined with, not to forget, a measure of pride, as Ansell has been able to support the Healthy Athletes Program, a unique side event of the Olympics, through a donation of medical gloves.

Since its inception in 1969, the [Special Olympics](#) has become the world's largest program of sports training and athletic competition for adults and children with intellectual disabilities. In many countries, this unique happening is being coupled to the [Healthy Athletes](#) side-event, providing athletes with a variety of free health screenings.

Healthy Athletes

The objective of the Healthy Athletes

initiative is twofold: improve the health and fitness of people with mental disabilities and gain a deeper insight into their health needs and abilities.

During the last Belgian Special Olympics in May, for example, the athletes were checked for good mouth hygiene, hearing, eyes, feet and physical condition. The results from the 'Fun Fitness' screening will form the basis for a full scientific study.



Sponsorship fits our credo

It was at this Belgian Healthy Athletes event that Ansell made a difference by donating 5 000 non-latex [Micro-Touch® Nitrile®](#) gloves. Ansell is glad that it was able to support this project, which, once again, perfectly fits our credo: "to improve the health of everyone."