

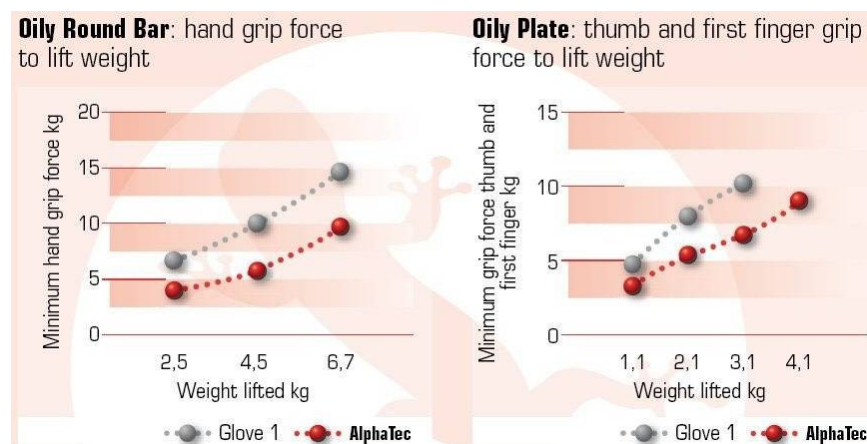
# *Ansell Grip Technology™ requires less grip force, reducing Carpal Tunnel Syndrome risks.*

*Ansell, a world leader in hand protection, introduces Ansell Grip Technology™ (AGT), a revolutionary new grip design. Available on the soon to be released AlphaTEC™ chemical resistant gloves, AGT gives workers the control and confidence to get the job done safely, reducing the risks of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and workplace accidents.*

Ansell has undertaken in-depth analyses of thousands of workstations in over 50 major manufacturing plants in Europe and has established that grip, in either wet or dry conditions, is perceived as a need by workers in over 89% of workstations<sup>i</sup>. Safety concerns when lifting with gloves that have poor grip are frequently cited as a serious safety hazards as objects might be dropped, resulting in foot injuries or cuts. It is also well established that exerting excessive grip force is an aggravating factor that leads to increased stress, fatigue and muscle strain, and ultimately may lead to Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS), also known as Occupational Overuse Syndrome (OOS), Repetition Strain Injury (RSI) or tenosynovitis refers to a range of conditions that are characterised by constant discomfort and pain. Symptoms include swelling, numbness, restricted movement and weakness in or around the muscles and tendons. This results in individuals experiencing difficulty in holding objects or tools, affecting their ability to function both at work and at home. CTS are commonly caused in working environments that require repetitive hand movements, such as on the assembly line, sorting, packing or construction. Poor work processes, including gloves that provide inadequate grip, are major contributors to CPS. Improving working conditions will reduce the force and aggravation placed on the body.

Global health studies support the positive association between forceful work and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome<sup>ii</sup>. Ansell's **AGT** has been designed to ease the pressure on workers' hands, providing superior grip in slippery environments, whether involving oil, oil-based chemicals, water-based lubricants or other greasy coatings. **AGT** integrates microscopic channels in an ultra-thin nitrile



layer, directing fluids away from the grip surface, leaving a significant contact area dry with almost the same grip as under fluid-free conditions. Tests have shown that over a range of increasing weights, **AGT** provides a better wet/oily grip than

any other similar glove available on the market today\*. Oil grip tests on comparable gloves show that the AlphaTEC glove with **AGT** required between 34-69% less grip force to lift an oily 4.5 kilogram object.<sup>iii</sup> This outstanding grip performance will help workers experience greater performance, minimising fatigue and stress.

The benefits of the improved grip performance of AGT have been confirmed by Professor Alan Wing of the University of Birmingham's Sensory Motor Neuroscience Laboratory using AlphaTEC prototypes. His preliminary testing "indicates a notable decrease in the grip force used to lift weights with the AlphaTEC glove under oily, low friction conditions." According to Professor Wing, "the reduction in grip force is associated with markedly reduced activity in the finger flexor

muscles when lifting and gripping using the AlphaTEC glove.” Ansell plans to continue the joint research with the University of Birmingham through further work on ergonomic factors associated with hand movements and muscle exertion.

In addition to AGT, the AlphaTEC product also features a unique production process that ensures an exceptionally safe chemical barrier. Unlike most ‘supported’ gloves on the market,



AlphaTEC’s nitrile shell does not penetrate into the knitted liner during the dipping process and therefore provides a more consistent thickness and better protection for the skin. AlphaTEC offers a high level of resistance to a wide range of chemicals, and, in particular, to hydrocarbon-based chemicals, oils and solvents. AlphaTEC’s softer nitrile coating formulation is also designed to give greater flexibility. The shape of the glove has been ergonomically designed and features more closely fitting fingers, resulting in enhanced finger sensitivity

and tactility for the user. The internal lining is made from a soft acrylic yarn and has no seams for even better comfort and tactility.

Pre-launch trials undertaken by Ansell show AlphaTEC exceed workers’ expectations in areas of grip, feel, and ease of donning and chemical resistance. In fact, 81% of workers surveyed also said AlphaTEC lasts longer than their current glove. While 86% would choose AlphaTEC instead of their current glove. Laboratory tests also confirm that AlphaTEC exceeds many other major nitrile competitor products in chemical permeation performance and achieves the highest abrasion resistance rating, for enhanced durability.<sup>iv</sup>

The glove’s unique combination of grip and high level structural integrity and protection, together with its flexibility and dexterity make it the logical and reliable choice when handling dangerous chemicals. AlphaTEC is ideal for general assembly applications and in environments with potential chemical hazards, including the chemical industry, printing, mining, aerospace, agriculture, oilfield exploration and production, and automotive and/or OEM markets.

AlphaTEC, the new generation chemical protection, and AGT, Advanced Grip Technology – a perfect combination for helping to deliver superior performance, greater productivity and costs savings through less stress and fatigue and other related injuries.

For more information about Ansell Grip Technology™, please Freecall Ansell on 1800 337 041 or visit [www.ansell.com.au](http://www.ansell.com.au)

Ansell, AlphaTEC and Ansell Grip Technology are trademarks owned by Ansell Limited, or one of its affiliates. © 2006 Ansell Limited. All Rights Reserved.

---

<sup>i</sup> Source: Regional trials conducted in AP, US and Europe. July/August 2005.

<sup>ii</sup> Source: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, “Musculoskeletal Disorders and Workplace Factors”, July 1997 and Worker Health Chartbook 2004, Chapter 2.

<sup>iii</sup> Source: Regional trials conducted in AP, US and Europe. July/August 2005.

<sup>iiii</sup> Source: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, “Musculoskeletal Disorders and Workplace Factors”, July 1997 and Worker Health Chartbook 2004, Chapter 2.<sup>iii</sup> Comparison between the new AlphaTEC™ glove incorporating Ansell Grip Technology™, the Ansell Solvex 37-675® and competitors’ gloves. Both a power grasp and a precision grasp were tested on oily surfaces. (Based on amount of kgf to lift weights greater than 4.5kg.)

<sup>iv</sup> Ansell regional trials conducted in Asia Pacific, United States and Europe. July/August 2005. (Direct competitors include all leading global manufacturers’ supported nitrile gloves.)

\*Similar glove based on direct competitors which include all leading global manufacturers’ supported nitrile gloves.