BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction and Maintenance

SECTION G81.840.1
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AT&T Co Standard

LINEMEN'S RUBBER GLOVES

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section covers the care of rubber gloves provided for electrical protection of workmen and the safety precautions to be followed governing their use. Information on leather protector gloves, fabric liner gloves, and rubber glove bags, which are associated with rubber gloves, is also included.

1.02 This section is being reissued to prohibit the use of gasoline as an agent for cleaning rubber gloves.

1.03 Each employee must at all times assume full responsibility for checking the condition of the rubber gloves he is wearing.

2. DESCRIPTION

2.01 There are two types of linemen's rubber gloves, namely linemen's Rubber Gloves and C Linemen's Rubber Gloves. Both types have curved fingers and are furnished in several sizes. The size indicates the approximate number of inches around the glove measured midway between the thumb crotch and finger crotches. The length of each glove measured

from the tip of the second finger to the outer edge of the gauntlet is approximately 14 inches.

2.02 The Linemen's Rubber Gloves are made of rubber of such thickness as not to require protector gloves and are intended for use without them.

2.03 The C Linemen's Rubber Gloves are made of thinner rubber to provide maximum flexibility. It is a requirement that protector gloves be worn over them. "Use Protector" or other words of similar meaning are marked on the outside near the edge of the gauntlet on the palm side.

2.04 Either the B or the C Leather Protector Gloves may be used with C Linemen's Rubber Gloves to prevent undue mechanical damage to the rubber gloves. Leather protector gloves do not provide protection from electrical shock by themselves and shall not be worn for that purpose. B Leather Protector Gloves are made of horsehide with gauntlet cuffs about 3-1/2 inches wide. C Leather Protector Gloves are made of deerskin using the mocassin style construction and have gauntlet cuffs about 4-1/2 inches wide. They are somewhat more flexible and less bulky than the B type.

2.05 C Fabric Liner Gloves are form fitting light cotton knit liner gloves with rubberized fabric gauntlets. These gloves may be worn inside either type rubber glove for warmth in cold weather and for absorbing perspiration in warm weather.

2.06 The B Rubber Glove Bag is provided for carrying and storing linemen's rubber gloves and associated leather protector and fabric liner gloves. It is made of No. 10 cotton duck and is equipped with a web strap, terminating in a snap hook and a dee ring for suspending bag from the body belt.

2.07 The B Linemen's Rubber Gloves which have been superseded by the C Linemen's Rubber Gloves will continue to be used until the supply has been exhausted. As with the C Linemen's Rubber Gloves it is a requirement that either B or C Leather Protector Gloves be worn over them. The care and use of B Linemen's Rubber Gloves is the same as for C Linemen's Rubber Gloves as covered in this practice.

3. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

3.01 Except in emergencies such as to prevent serious injury or loss of life, telephone employees shall not handle electric light, power wires or associated switches, and shall therefore arrange to have the necessary work required on these circuits performed by properly qualified employees of the Elec-

tric Company. Similarly, telephone employees shall not handle telephone wires that are known or suspected to be energized until the contact conditions have been cleared by the Electric Company. In view of this, the use of rubber gloves by telephone employees is limited to work on emergency cases, as stated above, and under certain conditions on telephone plant.

3.02 In general, conditions under which rubber gloves should be worn are covered in the Bell System Practices on various field operations. However, on account of the complicated nature of the conditions encountered under which rubber gloves should be worn, it is impracticable to provide a complete set of rules covering all of the specific cases in which they shall be used. Therefore, where workmen must handle wires or other objects on which there is any probability of an abnormal voltage being introduced, rubber gloves shall be worn. Workmen wearing rubber gloves must avoid body contact with wires, poles, and any other objects which might be charged.

3.03 Linemen's rubber gloves will be given an electrical test when purchased from the manufacturer and periodically thereafter under the Company's established routine. WORKMEN AND STOREKEEPERS SHALL SEE THAT RUBBER GLOVES ARE RETURNED FOR PERIODIC ELECTRICAL TESTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMPANY'S ESTABLISHED ROUTINE.

3.04 Linemen's rubber gloves shall be inspected in the field in accordance with Parts 4 and 5 below.

4. INSPECTION ROUTINE

4.01 Each employee shall at all times assume the responsibility for determining that his rubber gloves are in good condition, that their appearance indicates neither deterioration nor injury from an electrical or a mechanical standpoint, and that they are being used within the specified electrical test period.

4.02 Each employee shall inspect his rubber gloves in accordance with Part 5 as follows:

(a) At the time he receives the gloves.

(b) Each time before using them.

(c) Each time after using them.

(d) A minimum of once each month.

4.03 The supervisor shall inspect the linemen's rubber gloves periodically and shall see that all instructions contained herein are complied with.

5. INSPECTION OF LINEMEN'S RUBBER GLOVES

5.01 The gloves shall be examined to determine their conditions as suggested below. If any of the following conditions are found to exist or if the condition of the gloves is such that there is any doubt as to their safety, they shall be exchanged at once for a pair in good condition in accordance with the Company's established routine.

(a) Visual inspection of rubber gloves

(1) Cracks, cuts or nicks that would tend to cause the rubber to tear. Such injuries within one inch of the edge of the open end of the gauntlet may be disregarded if of a minor nature.

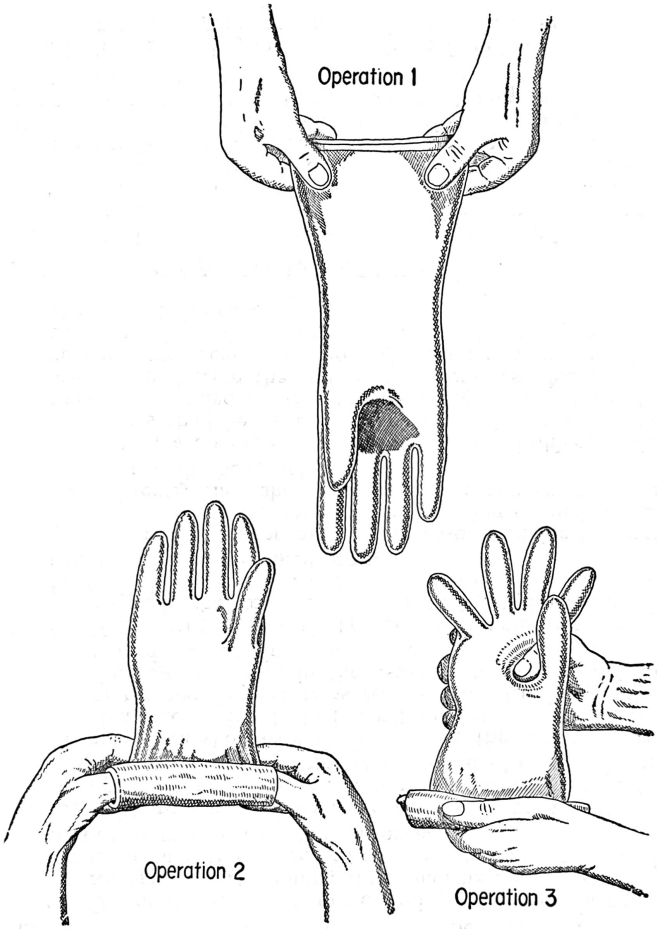
(2) Rubber worn sufficiently to affect its mechanical strength.

(3) Date (the imprint of a rubber stamp) of next periodic electrical test to determine that the specified date has not been passed.

(b) Air test. This test shall be made on rubber gloves only when the conditions listed under (a) are satisfactory.

(1) Hold the glove at each side of the edge of the gauntlet.

(2) Revolve it about the edge of the gauntlet as an axis, thus rolling it toward the palm and confining the air in the palm and fingers.



(3) Hold the rolled-up gauntlet tightly in one hand.

(4) Squeeze the palm of the glove with the other hand so as to put the confined air under pressure. If any puncture exists the escape of air will indicate the fact and the hole in the glove should be evident.

6. STORAGE OF RUBBER GLOVES

6.01 Rubber gloves deteriorate even when not in use. This deterioration may be materially reduced if the gloves are laid out flat without folds or bends and protected from light and from pressure due to heavy objects. To accomplish this, one of the following methods should be followed:

(a) On the trucks, rubber gloves and associated leather protector and fabric liner gloves shall be kept in the rubber glove bags and stored in the lockers or other suitable containers provided for that purpose.

(b) With tool bags, rubber gloves and associated leather protector and fabric liner gloves shall be kept in the rubber glove bags which should be attached to the tool bags.

Note: Care should be taken to have the bag so placed that when it is attached, it will be flat against that side of the tool bag which is remote from the body, when the bag is carried in the usual way, and so that the flap of the container will face out.

(c) When kept in Splicer's Trailers, rubber gloves and associated leather protector and fabric liner gloves shall be kept in the rubber glove bag and stored so as to avoid contact with sharp edged tools.

(d) When the rubber gloves and associated leather protector and fabric liner gloves are being carried for use intermittently they shall be kept in the rubber glove bag attached to the body belt.

(e) If they are stored in lockers or in central offices rubber gloves shall be kept in the pasteboard boxes in which they are supplied by the manufacturer, or in which they are returned from the routine electrical test. Never place rubber gloves near steam pipes, radiators, or in places where they will be subject to heat, as heat will impair the strength of the rubber.

7. CLEANING OF RUBBER GLOVES

7.01 Rubber gloves shall be cleaned when they become wet from perspiration or when the gloves are subjected to contact with dirt, mud, paint, creosote or other foreign matter. Perspiration, mud, dirt and other foreign matter that does not adhere firmly to rubber shall be removed with clear water. Paint and creosote shall be removed as soon as practicable, as some oils, if allowed to remain on the rubber, will have an injurious effect on it.

7.02 The following method has been found satisfactory for removing paint or creosote from rubber.

(a) Wipe off rubber gloves with a dry cloth so as to remove as much wet paint or creosote as practicable.

(b) Clean the entire glove thoroughly with a cloth moistened with petroleum spirits, mineral spirits, or trichloroethylene. Do not use an excessive amount of the cleaning agent. **This cleaning shall be done in a well ventilated location, as these materials are either inflammable or their vapors constitute a health hazard. As soon as each glove has been cleaned, it should be wiped thoroughly dry with a dry, clean cloth. Do not use gasoline.** Gasoline has a very low flash point and hence its use presents a much more serious fire hazard than does the use of mineral spirits or petroleum spirits, which have a much higher flash point. Trichloroethylene is non-explosive.

7.03 After using rubber gloves they should be thoroughly dried so that the moisture from the hands will not become entrapped and cause the rubber to deteriorate. Each time after using, gloves should be turned inside out and placed flat to dry. After the gloves have been dried they shall be turned right side out and placed in the containers ready for use.

8. DISPOSITION OF RUBBER GLOVES REQUIRING ELECTRICAL TEST

8.01 Storekeepers are responsible for rubber gloves in the storerooms and workmen are responsible for rubber gloves which they have in the field. The dates of return for tests are stamped upon the backs of the gloves and in the space on the boxes provided for that purpose.

8.02 Workmen shall see that gloves in the field are returned to the storeroom or office prior to the return for retest date. A replacing pair of gloves should be available before returning the gloves to be tested.

8.03 Storekeepers shall see that all gloves in their possession are returned for inspection on the dates indicated to the Western Electric Branch House or other authorized inspection agency. If, however, gloves are held beyond this date, they shall not be used or issued until retested.

8.04 All gloves before being returned to the Western Electric Company or other authorized agent shall be given a careful inspection in accordance with Part 5. Gloves with obvious defects shall be junked in accordance with Part 9.

9. DISPOSITION OF DEFECTIVE RUBBER GLOVES

9.01 Gloves with obvious defects should have the front cut open from the fingers to the top of the gauntlet and should be disposed of as junk in accordance with the Company's established routine.