Choosing the Right Footwear

Most workplaces have varying requirements for the provision of safety footwear, which is why we offer a comprehensive range within which you should be able to identify appropriate footwear to meet the needs of your workforce whatever the hazards identified in your risk assessment.

Whilst protection is paramount it is recognised that with long wear periods, often in hostile conditions, wearer acceptance, wellbeing, design, brand and comfort are additional considerations. We therefore offer varying styles from executive shoes to heavy duty rigger boots, and leading brands such as Dr Martens, Rock Fall®, uvex, Magnum, CAT, Ejendals and Dunlop® alongside our increasingly popular and cost effective Tuf Revolution and Tuf ranges.

Slip Resistance

Slips, trips and falls are an ever present hazard within most workplaces and safety footwear can play its part in preventing injury, particularly from slips, by featuring slip-resistant soles. With regard to current testing, the now established EN ISO 13287 with its progressive SRA, SRB and SRC ratings are commonly used. Details of the EN ISO 13287 testing requirements are shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marking</th>
<th>Footwear slip resistant on</th>
<th>Minimum coefficient of friction by ISO 13287:2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Forward heel slip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRA</td>
<td>Ceramic tile with 0.5% sodium lauryl sulphate solution</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRB</td>
<td>Steel floor with 90% glycerine solution</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRC</td>
<td>Tested on ceramic and steel floors with % solutions as above</td>
<td>Both the above on respective surfaces</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ANTI-STATIC, ESD AND ELECTRICAL HAZARD SAFETY FOOTWEAR EXPLAINED**

**ANTI-STATIC**

Anti-Static footwear has an electrical resistance between 0.1 and 1000 megaohm (M), measured according to EN 20344:2011. They conduct static electricity through the insole, linings, outsole and into the ground, helping regulate the build-up of electrical charge on a person's body and help protect against the dangers of static build-up in the workplace. These are used to reduce the change of sparks igniting flammable substances or vapours. The aim is therefore to protect those wearing safety footwear (and their colleagues) from dangers related to electrostatic build-up.

**ESD**

ESD has the same benefit as Anti-Static, however its resistance range is much lower. They have an electrical resistance between 0.1 and just 35 megaohm (M), measured according to EN 20344:2011. For this reason, all ESD compliant footwear is anti-static, however not all anti-static footwear is ESD compliant.

**ELECTRICAL HAZARD**

It is very important to understand that Electrical Hazard is an entirely different specification and standard to Anti-Static and ESD. Electrical Hazard boots are designed to impede the flow of electricity through the shoe and to the ground, reducing the likelihood of electrocution, in accordance with ASTM F2413-11. The outer surface of the sole and heel shouldn't be penetrated by any electrically conductive component, like nails in the heel. EH shock resistant footwear must be capable of withstanding the application of 18,000 volts at 60 Hz for 1 minute with no current flow or leakage in excess of 1.0 milliampere.

Electrical Hazard boots are not meant to be the main source of protection in an electrical hazard environment. EH boots are designed to be used as a secondary source of protection.

**ADDITIONAL SAFETY FEATURES**

Should our safety footwear offer any additional protective features, then the appropriate symbol will be added.

- **SRC rating** Test on both ceramic tile and steel floors Tested on both SRA & SRC range
- **Heat resistant uppers**
- **Footwear with safety toe cap**
- **Footwear with metal midsole protection – 100 joules impact energy**
- **Footwear tested to EN 13287 and the rating achieved will be identified by the appropriate SRA/ SRB/SRC icon.**
- **Waterproof footwear**
- **Water-resistant uppers**
- **Footwear available in women’s sizes**
- **Tested on ceramic tile floor with sodium lauryl solution**
- **Cold resistance**
- **Footwear with energy absorption of the seat region tested at 20 joules**
- **Footwear with safety midsole**
- **SRB rating. Tested on steel floor with glycine solution**
- **Heat resistant outer sole compound tested to 300°C**
- **Metal midsole**
- **Battery powered**
- **Waterproof footwear – 100 joules impact energy**
- **Energy absorbing heel unit**
- **Insulation against heat**
- **Insulation against cold**
- **Energy absorption in heel unit**
- **Outsole resistance to hot contact up to 300°C**
- **Conductive properties helping to prevent the build-up of static (but no protection against electric shock)**
- **Anti-static properties to prevent the build-up of static and give limited protection against electric shock from nominal mains voltage**