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**KEVLAR[®] Armor Technology Offers Greater
Hand Protection in High-Risk Tasks**

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept. 24, 2001—A new technology from DuPont is enhancing the already high level of cut-protection performance for which DuPont[™] KEVLAR[®] brand fiber is known. At the National Safety Congress here, DuPont is exhibiting the first new work glove to use this technology.

KEVLAR[®] Armor Technology addresses the needs of workers whose jobs expose them to extremely hazardous conditions that demand increased protection from sharp objects. These include environments where stationary blades, slitting operations or tasks involving heavy metal or glass panels and extremely sharp knives or instruments pose a threat to employees.

A variety of cut-protection systems already exist to prevent personnel injuries in these higher risk situations. Materials used in such systems range from combinations of fiberglass and polyethylene, and stainless steel and liquid crystal polymers to stainless steel wrapped synthetic fibers and stainless steel mesh. The primary shortcoming of systems made with these materials is their lack of comfort and flexibility, which can impede an employee's dexterity and productivity. Also, none of them offer any significant protection against heat and flame.

“We have had quite a few inquiries in the past for technology that would provide cut protection for workers in higher-risk situations,” said Greg Parker, U.S. segment leader, KEVLAR® Protective Apparel. “That’s why we began developing new solutions for these applications approximately 18 months ago.”

“Our objective with KEVLAR® Armor Technology,” said Parker, “is to provide technology solutions that enhance the existing cut-protection performance of KEVLAR®. The material and the technology used in that enhancement may vary by application and need.”

New flexible and comfortable hand protection for high-risk jobs

Given the success of KEVLAR® in providing on-the-job hand protection, it is not surprising that the first offering to incorporate this new technology is a work glove. This new reinforcement system features a specially designed, fine-gauge stainless steel filament, which has been demonstrated to provide the optimum balance between comfort and cut protection. This system is then completely surrounded by KEVLAR® spun fiber. Workers will find several new advantages in this latest addition to handwear protection.

“The most important advantage is the fact that these particular work gloves provide 150 to 400 percent more protection than current gloves using KEVLAR® brand fiber,” said Parker. “We’ve verified this protection using ASTM 1790-97 for cut-protection performance testing,” he added.

Even with the addition of the fine-gauge, stainless steel filament, the new glove is far lighter and more comfortable than alternative hand protection designed for higher-risk applications. During field evaluations, wearers reported no discernible difference in comfort or dexterity between the reinforced glove using the new technology and the incumbent glove knitted with KEVLAR® brand fiber. In fact, with the exception of cut protection, performance of the two glove types was equally high across all parameters, including abrasion and wear resistance.

The thermal resistance and low thermal conductivity inherent in KEVLAR® provide workers with an added benefit that should not be overlooked.

According to Parker, gloves using KEVLAR® Armor Technology will be available globally through licensed manufacturers during the fourth quarter of this year.

Protective apparel incorporating KEVLAR® Armor Technology complies with stringent quality and performance standards for cut resistance, thermal protection, comfort, durability and appearance retention. That's because all protective apparel made with this new technology is produced by licensed manufacturers and is identified by the DuPont™ KEVLAR® brand quality assurance label.

DuPont is a science company, delivering science-based solutions that make a difference in people's lives in food and nutrition; health care; apparel; home and construction; electronics; and transportation. Founded in 1802, the company operates in 70 countries and has 90,000 employees.

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