

# Mandatory use of Kevlar Gloves by Apprentices when using hand knives

## Background

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2106 a Safety Alert was issued in relation to Knife Safety. Following on from this alert a Working Group comprised of Networks Technicians and representatives from across the business was established to review knife safety in ESB Networks. Having analysed recent knife related safety incidents and after carrying out a detailed risk assessment the working group made the following recommendation:

- **As an identified vulnerable group, all electrical and mechanical apprentices shall always wear Kevlar gloves when using hand knives.**

This is now a mandatory requirement for all apprentices. The NTC are currently updating all appropriate course syllabus to incorporate the required changes as recommended by the Working Group.



### Stores Codes

- **Size 8-** 8971287
- **Size 9-** 8971262
- **Size 10-** 8971263

**For any sizes outside of this range please contact: Paul Fitzgerald: 087 659 3606**

## General Knife Safety Guidelines

- Use the most appropriate knife for the task being undertaken and wear cut resistant gloves for tasks where it is practicable to do so. (Kevlar if required by risk assessment).
- Stay focussed on the task at hand.
- Always direct the cutting movement of the blade away from all parts of the body.
- In cold weather always heat up the insulation with a gas torch before attempting to strip with a knife.
- Always use a sharp blade. Used correctly, it is safer than a blunt blade.
- Always use a stripping tool where possible.
- Always place a knife back into its holder/sheath when not in use.
- Do not apply too much pressure on the blade.
- Do not use knives to pry loose objects

**For further Information Contact - Seamus O'Loughlin, Technical Development Manager 087 901 3143**