IMA-NA CASE STUDY #1
Unimin Reduces Hand Injuries by 53%

• In September 2012 Unimin launched a Glove Pilot Program at select plants following an effort by the IMA-NA Safety & Health Committee to highlight that hands and fingers are the most injured body parts in the industrial minerals industry.

• Gloves were made standard personal protective equipment to be worn at all times outside of any controlled environment (i.e., control rooms, break rooms, cabs of mobile equipment), similar to hard hats and safety glasses.

• Employees were provided with proper gloves based on hazards associated with individual tasks, rather than gloves designated for job classifications or positions.

• Employee involvement was a critical element in conducting hazard assessments for various tasks and selecting appropriate gloves to control those hazards.

• After a three-month pilot program, the rate of hand injuries requiring treatment (on or off-site) at the pilot plants was reduced by 53%.

• As a result the glove program was expanded to all Unimin facilities in the summer of 2013.

• An employee survey was conducted following the pilot program and it was determined that 77% of employees agreed that the use of gloves had prevented or reduced the severity of a hand incident.