CLAIMS

1. A medical examination glove comprising:

(a) natural or nitrile rubber latex; and

(b) a water soluble singlet oxygen generator, in which the singlet oxygen generator is selected from the group consisting of Rose Bengal, thiazones, preferably Toluidine Blue, and water soluble phthalocyanines, preferably Tinolux BBS or Tinolux BMC, more preferably cationic phthalocyanine singlet oxygen generators.

2. A glove according to Claim 1, comprising a mixture of red and blue singlet oxygen generators and/or further comprising a dye, preferably a combination of red and blue dyes.

3. A glove according to Claim 1 or 2, further comprising a biocide, optionally in which the biocide is selected from the group comprising chlorohexidene triclosan, benzalkonium chloride, silver salts and nanoparticles, poly(hexamethylene biguanide) (PHMB), an organic peroxide or hydroperoxide, and preferably surface reactive biocide Dimethyloctadecyl[3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyl]ammonium chloride.

4. A glove according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the singlet oxygen generator is bound to inorganic nanoparticles, preferably cationically modified silica nanoparticles.

5. A glove according to any preceding claim, further comprising polymeric or monomeric organic cations, preferably polyethylene imine or PHMB; and/or further comprising polymeric or monomeric anions, preferably polystryene sulphonate, or polymethacyrilic acid.

6. A method of manufacturing a natural or nitrile rubber latex medical examination glove, comprising:

(a) contacting a glove former with a coagulant solution comprising divalent group 2 metal cations and optionally carbonate or stearate particles, and a water soluble singlet oxygen generator; and

(b) contacting the glove former with a natural or nitrile rubber latex dispersion,

in which the singlet oxygen generator is selected from the group comprising Rose Bengal, thiazones, preferably Toluidine Blue, and water soluble phthalocyanines, preferably Tinolux BBS or Tinolux BMC, more preferably cationic phthalocyanine singlet oxygen generators.

7. A method according to Claim 6, comprising a mixture of red and blue singlet oxygen generators.

8. A method according to Claim 6 or 7, in which the coagulant solution further comprises a biocide, optionally in which the biocide is selected from the group comprising chlorohexidene triclosan, benzalkonium chloride, silver salts and nanoparticles, poly(hexamethylene biguanide) (PHMB), and preferably surface reactive biocide Dimethyloctadecyl[3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyl]ammonium chloride.

9. A method according to Claim 6, 7 or 8, in which the coagulant solution further comprises a dye, preferably a combination of red and blue dyes; and/or in which the coagulant solution further comprises a water soluble methyl substituted vinyl compound, preferably including gereniol, prenol or nerol.

10. A method according to any of Claims 6 to 9, in which the singlet oxygen generator is bound to inorganic nanoparticles, preferably cationically modified silica nanoparticles.

11. A method according to any of Claims 6 to 10, in which polymeric or monomeric organic cations are present, preferably polyethylene imine or PHMB, and/or in which inorganic cationic nanoparticles are present, preferably cationically modified silica nanoparticles; and/or in which polymeric or monomeric organic anions are present, preferably polystyrene sulphonate or polymethacyrilic acid.

12. A method according to any of Claims 6 to 11, in which cationic singlet oxygen generators are present in the coagulant solution and anionic singlet oxygen generators are present in the latex dispersion; or in which anionic singlet oxygen generators are present in the coagulant solution and cationic singlet oxygen generators are present in the latex dispersion.

13. A method according to any of Claims 6 to 12, in which the glove former is pre-contacted with cationic fixing agents and then contacted with the coagulant solution, said fixing agents preferably selected from the group comprising polyamines or polyquats, or monometic cationic fixing agents, preferably polyethylene imine, PHMB or Vantocil IB; or in which the glove former is pre-contacted with anionic single oxygen generators and then contacted with the coagulant solution further comprising cationic fixing agents, preferably polyamines or polyquats, or monometic cationic fixing agents, preferably polyethylene imine or PHMB.

14. A medical examination glove obtainable by a method according to any of Claims 6 to 13.