

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

December 31, 2003

MEMO

TO: ALL HASTINGS REPS  
ATTN: FIELD SALESMEN

SUBJECT: PRODUCTS FOR CARE & MAINTENANCE OF LIVE LINE TOOLS

Dear HASTINGS Factory Rep!

Over the years we have had many questions from customers asking us what to use to clean their hot sticks and live line tools. These questions have become more frequent since the inception of the OSHA rule requiring testing of in-service tools once every two years. Believe it or not, we have been asked if the following products are acceptable for cleaning hot sticks... WD-40, brake fluid, engine degreaser, and kitchen cleanser. As we hope you would guess, our answer to these products was an absolute NO!

As a manufacturer of live line tools for the electric utility industry, we are required to meet stringent specifications before our tools can go out the door. The most rigid of these specifications is the electrical test of 100 KV per foot and the alternate test of 50KV per every six inches. These tools are the "life-line" of the lineman when they are working high voltage with hot sticks. OSHA states that after a new tool has been placed in service, it must be electrically tested at least once every two years. Also, it must be tested under wet conditions. To pass this OSHA wet-test, the tool will need to be cleaned so that the surface condition has had all contaminants removed. The contamination on the surface of a hot stick comes from many sources out there, some of which are carbon tracking and carbon marks from conductor, weather proof insulation when wet becomes conductive, and daily dirt and greases from storage on line trucks. It is imperative that any type of contamination on the surface be removed so that the live line tool can pass the in-service electrical test.

To assist our customers with cleaning their tools, you know that we have developed an extensive product line of cleaning products. All of the products that we offer are user friendly. All are non-toxic and biodegradable. All of our cleaning products are also compatible with our fiber glass and resins and do not degrade the fiber glass or the ultraviolet inhibitors that we use. For these reasons we cannot and will not recommend any after market cleaner or wax for the cleaning and maintaining of our fiber glass sticks.

Some of you have asked us if its okay to use cleaners made by other hot stick manufacturers. While we would naturally prefer that customers use our cleaners, we believe that as long as the cleaner is made or manufactured by a hot stick manufacturer, it is acceptable to HASTINGS. There is however one cleaner on the market made by another manufacturer that we do not recommend. One manufacturer in our industry makes a combination cleaner/wax that is a cream and is called One Part Hot Stick Cleaner & Wax. It has gritty and grainy texture and we believe this degrades the surface condition of the stick and we do not recommend it.

Remember...

- You want your stick appearance to be "clean & glossy"
- NOT "dull & dirty"
- Use only approved cleaners from a reputable hot stick manufacturer!
- DO NOT USE the following products to clean your sticks...
  - WD-40
  - Engine Degreaser
  - Brake Fluid
  - Kitchen Cleansers
  - Metallic cleaning or scouring pads
  - Any type of industrial cleaning agent
  - Any type of after market automotive wax
- USE ONLY APPROVED CLEANERS FROM THE STICK MANUFACTURER!

Sincerely,  
HASTINGS HOT LINE TOOLS