



power tool institute, inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Counterfeit Power Tools Appear in US

CLEVELAND, Ohio – November 13, 2003 – A trend that started in Europe has now appeared in the US. The Power Tool Institute (PTI) issues a warning to power tool users not to be conned into buying cheap, counterfeit power tools.

The members of the PTI have become aware of certain sales activities where persons claim to be sales representatives of major power tool manufacturers, have just finished working at a trade show and want to go home without their tool samples. These people typically sell power tools from the trunk of their rental car for what seems to be bargain basement prices for tools such as rotary hammers, grinders, cordless tools and combination kits. The unsuspecting buyer often finds out these tools are counterfeit only after they open the boxes and begin to use them. Soon the tools fail and they attempt to have them serviced at manufacturer's service centers.

Members of the PTI have also become aware of counterfeit tools being sold over the Internet on some auction sites. When found, these sales sites are reported and often shut down.

Major manufacturers targeted include Bosch, Hilti, DeWalt, Makita and Milwaukee. These tools may be dangerous as well as of poor quality. The tools obviously are not tested and approved by a respectable lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories or Canadian Standards Association, although in some cases the tool may bear a UL or CSA sticker. These counterfeit tools are sometimes being sold with stickers from large

retail outlets on the cases as well. The PTI members are concerned that use of these tools may lead to injuries or damage due to their poor quality and unsafe construction.

PTI reminds the public that if the price for a branded power tool seems too good to be true, it probably is. You should only purchase power tools from reputable retailers and distributors. Members of the PTI are involved with state and federal law authorities in criminal investigations. Several arrests have been made in this counterfeit activity. The public's help is needed in stopping the problem. If someone suspicious approaches you or someone you know makes these types of offers, refuse the sale and report the action to local authorities and to manufacturers of the tool that was counterfeited. Contact numbers for the PTI member companies can be found in the "member profile" section of the PTI Web site at www.powertoolinstitute.com.

About PTI

With the vision to unify and educate others about power tools, the Power Tool Institute (PTI) has established itself as the pre-eminent organization for building global understanding of power tools and for maintaining high standards of safety and quality in the industry.

Started in 1968, PTI represents market-leading brands in the areas of portable and stationary power tools. From table saws and portable drills, from shapers to sanders, PTI's members are committed to improving the industry and to being the premiere resource for power tool safety education.

For more information about PTI and its services, please contact PTI at:

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