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From: Chris Blankenfeld
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2011 11:04 AM
To: David TOMLIN; Harley COMBS; Neil Seddon (US-Perm Resident)
Cc: Russ Clark; Terry Anderson; Mike Leachman; Bradley Lockhart; Ray Evans
Subject: RE: Millers

Here are some answers to your questions. Sorry I thought I had responded yesterday

We received a large order of new millers (triggers engaged by the index finger on top of the unit) that are garnering significant complaints from the shop floor guys.

ANS: This was an emergency purchase of Obsolete Angle Grinders that are no longer produced by Metabo. This order was placed because the employees also did not like the paddle switch type of Metabo which often got impacted with debris and stuck in the on position. This was deemed the safest alternative to the one that gets stuck on. Also the switch by design is to be actuated with the thumb not index finger. That way the hand can grasp the tool firmly around the body....These were to be the replacement tool until Metabo has had an opportunity to finish the re-design.

They are stating that it is unsafe and that someone is going to get hurt. To that end, we have begun to pull them off the shop floor.

ANS: I understand that these tools are not as easy to use as some of the past designs but it's the employee who makes the tool unsafe not the tool it's self. Any tool that we put these miller blades into **will be just as dangerous**. These blades were never designed to be used in a hand power tool. They are blades that go into a fixed milling machine. The practice was adopted here from the workers that came over from Australia. Incidentally this top switch design was the original one used on this facility....

1) What other options do we have from other manufacturers?

   ANS: Lower speed, lower torque, same employee hazard

I still have a need for Millers, but do not want to place a unit on the floor that is getting such a great amount of concern coming from the floor. Can you help with this?

ANS: We can still order the Pneumatic ones they are smaller lighter than and just as effective as their electronic brothers.

Con to these is that they cost approximately 70 dollars more per unit and eventually we will exhaust the air supplies on the facility.

What Metabo has decided to do for us based on my recommendations.

Redesign the body making it easier to grip – Pistol type grip with Dead man switch.
Integrated mechanical break stops unit within 3 seconds
Integrated handle – Capable of moving 180 degrees
Rear Vents to eliminate material loading into unit.

I also have an R&D Company working on a metal replacement blade to be used in lieu of the miller blades. But we have to remember an employee can hurt themselves with anything if used incorrectly

Regards

Safety is success by purpose - Not Accident

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