Brieser CONSTRUCTION

Toolbox Talk



Altered / Modified Tools – 10/4/26 - 10/10/26

Why This Matters

Hand and power tools are designed and manufactured to perform specific tasks safely. When a tool is altered, modified, repaired incorrectly, or used in a manner not intended by the manufacturer, its safety features and structural integrity may be compromised. A modified tool can fail unexpectedly, cause loss of control, or create an exposure to cuts, struck-by injuries, burns, electrical shock, or other serious injuries.

Common Examples of Altered or Modified Tools

- Grinding, cutting, or welding a tool to change its intended use.
- Modifying electrical cords, plugs, switches, or other electrical components.
- Using a tool for a purpose other than the manufacturer's intended application.

Safe Work Practices

DO:

- Inspect tools before each use.
- Use tools only for their intended purpose by following the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Use only manufacturer-approved parts, accessories, and attachments.
- Clearly identify and remove damaged or defective tools from service immediately and notify your supervisor.
- Use the correct tool for the job rather than improvising and make sure guards and safety devices are installed and functioning properly.
- Maintain tools according to the manufacturer's requirements.

DO NOT:

- Alter, modify, or fabricate a tool unless specifically authorized and approved by the manufacturer or your company’s qualified personnel.
- Remove or bypass guards or safety devices.
- Use homemade modifications as a substitute for the correct tool.
- Use excessive force or leverage that the tool was not designed to withstand.
- Use a tool that has been welded, ground, bent, cracked, or otherwise changed unless it has been properly evaluated and approved for continued use.

Remember! Tools that have been modified, damaged, or otherwise altered from their original design shall be removed from service immediately and clearly tagged to prevent use until evaluated by a qualified person.



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