

January 2004



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Safety Alert For Immediate Release

The Electrical Safety Authority Warns the Public About Hazardous Electrical Products

MISSISSAUGA, ON – The Electrical Safety Authority is issuing an alert to the Ontario public warning them not to use two electrical products that are unapproved for use in Ontario and present a high-risk of fire and shock hazard. These products have been available from small retail outlets.

This hazard was brought to the attention of the Electrical Safety Authority after an investigation resulted in a number of these products being confiscated from a warehouse in Toronto that supplies small retail outlets. At this time, the Electrical Safety Authority is interested in ensuring that consumers who may have purchased these products do not use them. These products are unsafe for use:

THIS POWER BAR is unsafe - Manufactured by American Tool Group. This is a 6 Outlet Strip Surge Suppressor with a UL® marking on red and blue package.



The power bar itself is white with no manufacturer or product approval marking on it. Consumers can identify this product by confirming the power bar has 6 plug outlets that could fit a two prong blade or round prongs plus a ground pin.



Unapproved Electrical Product Safety Alert/2

THIS EXTENSION CORD is unsafe – look for 50 foot orange extension cord with a UL® marking in a yellow package described as being a “3 OUTLET POWER CENTRE”.



These products are unsafe and must not be used. Preliminary examination of both products has identified the following hazards that could result in either shock or fire:

- Conductors are undersized which results in overheating.
- The ground pin has not been properly wired.
- The powerbar case is flammable.
- Plug blades are undersized and will overheat.

“Our primary concern,” says Mr. Marcucci, Chief Engineer and VP of Regulatory and Corporate Services at the Electrical Safety Authority” is that homeowners might have purchased these products and are not aware of the potential hazard these present to their homes and families.”

If you have purchased one of these products the Electrical Safety Authority asks that you cut the cord in half and dispose of the entire product. If you see one of these for sale please contact the Electrical Safety Authority at 1-877-esa-safe (1-877-372-7233).

“We are finding that a growing number of off-shore products are being imported into Ontario that have not been properly tested and approved for use in Ontario. Specific attention has been given to ensuring that Ontario has appropriate standards to protect the public from unsafe products. There are currently eleven organizations that are recognized by the Standards Council of Canada to approve electrical products. It is critical that Ontario consumers purchase electrical products that bear the mark of a recognized certification agency.” says Mr. Marcucci. A list of these agencies is available on the Electrical Safety Authority’s website at www.esasafe.com.

In addition, the Electrical Safety Authority has been notified by certification agencies that there are increasing concerns regarding counterfeit markings. The Electrical Safety Authority recommends that consumers who intend to buy electrical products and equipment purchase familiar brands, and shop at well-established retail outlets.

For more information call:

Cathy Chernysh, Electrical Safety Authority at (905) 712-5371.

Ted Olechna, Electrical Safety Authority at (905) 712-5366.

Electrical Product approval confirmation:

Look for approval markings on the product itself not on the packaging.

Recognized certification markings for Ontario:

