

## **Meritool Earns Safety Achievement**

SALAMANCA — Meritool LLC. was recognized for achieving acceptance into the Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program, also known as SHARP.

SHARP provides companies with formal recognition for maintaining a safety and health program that is among the most-effective in the nation. Located at 4496 Route 353 in Salamanca, Meritool manufactures customized hand and power tools.

The certification was achieved through a three-way effort involving the state Department of Labor, Meritool and Safety Compliance Inc. Paul Songin, state Department of Labor safety consultant, and Joe Budzich, industrial hygienist, completed the certification.

”Producing a quality product begins with a healthy and safe work environment. We are proud to have earned the SHARP certification. It is an important milestone for us at Meritool,” said Timm Herman, Meritool president and chief executive officer.

The company’s origin traces back to 1949 and it has specialized in the design, development and manufacturing of customized hand and power tools for customers in North America, Europe and Asia since 1993. In 2003, the company launched the world’s first two-component battery dispensing tool. Meritool has eight patents issued in cordless battery and pneumatic dispensing technology, with additional patents pending.

Maintaining a rate of OSHA-recordable injury at or below a company’s industry average is a key requirement to qualify for the program. A comprehensive safety and health facility inspection and correction of any deficiencies found is also required as a prerequisite to acceptance into the program.

”Safety and health are the number one priority at Meritool. We look to continuously improve our program and maintain our perfect safety record,” said Jim Thompson, Meritool safety manager.

Tim Songin of Safety Compliance Inc. works with the company’s safety committee on a monthly basis completing training, facility inspections and chairing a safety meeting. An action plan is drafted every December

that guides the monthly visits for the coming year and also incorporates areas where improvement can be made as a result of employee input and state Department of Labor surveys.

”Meritool has maintained an unblemished record in safety and health and all employees have done a tremendous job accomplishing that feat. It is my pleasure to work with the entire team at Meritool on a monthly basis,” Songin said.

The certification was completed in July 2016 and is good for two years at which time it can be reviewed for renewal.



From left to Right: Tim Songin (Safety Compliance, Inc.), Carrie Walters, Jim Thompson, Timm Herman (Meritool President & CEO) & Brent Findlay