
PRESS RELEASE

ITW Integrates Leading Midwest Fastener Divisions



Broadview, Illinois – August 8, 2011 – Effective immediately, Illinois Tool Works, a \$16 billion diversified manufacturer of engineered products and specialty systems, announces the integration of two of its Midwest industrial fastener divisions. The two divisions, ITW Bee Leitzke and ITW Shakeproof Industrial Products, which operate five facilities in Illinois and Wisconsin, have integrated into a single entity called the ITW Shakeproof Group.

Phil Johnson, General Manager of ITW Shakeproof Group said, “These two divisions have a long and rich history in their respective markets. While they have operated as separate brand entities, over time they have serviced similar markets, manufactured similar industrial products, and shared customers.”

Johnson noted the new name reflects the heritage of the various brands. “Over time, ITW has grown and acquired a group of industrial businesses that have great branded value. The brand names are important to us, and in communications with customers, we learned that the names are still important to our customers.”

Unlike its current structure, where a customer would have to contact each individual facility regarding products, the newly formed Shakeproof Group’s long term goals is to enable the customers to contact one facility for the Bee Leitzke, Mellows and Shakeproof Stampings product lines.

“With Bee Leitzke and Shakeproof Industrial Products sharing common markets like agriculture, heavy truck and equipment, pole line, outdoor power equipment, appliance, and railroad, it seemed natural for us to bring the two businesses together. We are excited about working towards arming customers with the ability to have one direct contact for the complete off the shelf standard product side of our business,” Johnson added. ITW Shakeproof Alpine, a custom threaded screw manufacturer, will continue to operate individually within the ITW Shakeproof Group.

Johnson added that as the integration will take place over the next several months, customers are asked to continue to conduct business as usual. Common business practices such as Contact Individuals, Customer Account Numbers, and Remit To Address have not changed.

“In the near future, the biggest change for the ITW Shakeproof Group will be converting all facilities into a new ERP System. We may see a couple of days of suspended business during this transition. Other than that, it is business as usual for us and our customers. Any future changes will be communicated early and often,” Johnson stated.

Shakeproof’s history dates back to 1923 when ITW launched it as the first line of manufactured products from its tool making business. True to its name, Shakeproof invented a wide variety of stampings for machinery that resisted vibration and loosening. Shakeproof’s inventions of Tooth Lock Washers, Spring Washers, and Square Cone Washers

quickly became industry standards. In 1991 ITW purchased the Mellowes Helical Lock Washer facility in Milwaukee, WI to compliment the stamping products business.

Similarly, ITW Bee Leitzke was established in 1929. Known as the “pin people”, Bee Leitzke manufactures a wide variety of cotter, clevis and hitch pins for industrial markets. ITW purchased Bee in 1996 and the current company resulted from the merger of three prominent fastener manufacturers: Medalist/Rein Leitzke, Bee Industries, and Hobbs Fasteners. Bee Leitzke’s manufacturing facility is located in Watertown, WI, and the warehousing and administration office is located in Iron Ridge, WI

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