# HOT STICK DAILY USE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

#### **IEEE Std 978-1984**

## 4.3 Cleaning and Waxing

Before each use, insulating tools should be wiped with a clean, absorbent paper towel or clean, absorbent cloth and followed by wiping with a silicone treated cloth.

Caution: Do not use cloths that have been washed in harsh solvents, since some residues on the cloth can be deposited on the pole surface.

If simple wiping does not remove the contaminant then apply denatured alcohol with a paper towel or clean, absorbent cloth and follow by wiping with a silicone-treated cloth. Other solvents or cleaners may be used as recommended by the manufacturers of the insulating tools.

Caution: Do not use soap detergents, liquid or powered form such as 409, Fantastic, Comet, ND-150, Bon-Ami, Ajax, etc., to clean fiberglass tools under field conditions because of the following problems:

- (1) The above described cleaning agents will leave a conductive residue unless rinsed with generous amounts of water (usually not available in the field).
- (2) Abrasive cleaners will destroy the surface gloss on the stick.

Note: All fiberglass tools that are subjected to such cleaning agents should be electrically tested under wetting conditions to ensure complete removal of residue from soap-type cleaners (see 5.3). Waxing is not necessary after every use of the tools but rather as needed to maintain a glossy surface that will cause any moisture or water to bead on the surface (see 5.5). Before the tool is rewaxed, to avoid a wax buildup, the pole should always be cleaned with a solvent or cleanser recommended by the manufacturer of the tools.

Waxing imparts not only a glossy finish to the surface of the fiberglass but also adds to the electrical integrity of the tool by providing a protective barrier against dirt, creosote, and other contaminants, and moisture.

## **OSHA** Regulation

## 1910.269 Part J - Live Line Tools

## (j)(2)(i)

Each live-line tool shall be wiped clean and visually inspected for defects before use each day.

## (j)(2)(ii)

If any defect or contamination that could adversely affect the insulating qualities or mechanical integrity of the liveline tool is present after wiping, the tool shall be removed from service and examined and tested according to paragraph (j)(2)(iii) of this section for examination, cleaning, repair, and testing as follows:

## (j)(2)(iii)(A)

Each tool shall be thoroughly examined for defects...1910.269(j) (2)(iii)(B)

## (j)(2)(iii)(B)

If a defect or contamination that could adversely affect the insulating qualities or mechanical integrity of the live-line tool is found, the tool shall be repaired and refinished or shall be permanently removed from service. If no such defect or contamination is found, the tool shall be cleaned and waxed.

## (j)(2)(iii)(C)

The tool shall be tested in accordance with paragraphs (j)(2)(iii)(D) and (j)(2)(iii)(E) of this section under the following conditions:

#### (j)(2)(iii)(C)(1)

After the tool has been repaired or refinished; and

# (j)(2)(iii)(C)(2)

After the examination if repair or refinishing is not performed, unless the tool is made of FRP rod or foam-filled FRP tube and the employer can demonstrate that the tool has no defects that could cause it to fail in use.



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