



# The British Constructional Steelwork Association Limited

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<i>For the attention of:</i>			
Managing Director	✓	Technical	✓
Commercial	✓	Contracts	✓
Marketing	✓	Health & Safety	✓
Training	✓	Accounts	✓
Production	✓	QA	✓

19 April 2016

## ALL MEMBERS MEMORANDUM No 74-16

### WARNING – TOOL SHARPENING SCAM

BCSA has received a report from a member (A&J Fabtech Limited) of a scam going around the UK at present, and they are keen to circulate details to all BCSA members to help protect them against this scam.

It concerns tool sharpening, where a 'free trial / sample' turns out to be anything but and results in threatening behaviour if the scammers' financial demands are refused.

Details of the scam are kindly provided by A&J Fabtech on page 2 of this AMM, and they are willing to discuss this issue further with individual members if required.

**CHRIS DOLLING**  
**Manager, Marketing and Technical Development**

## WARNING FOR BUSINESSES

### TOOL SHARPENING SCAM

Businesses **please beware** of a scam going around the UK at present. There is a lot of articles and warnings on Google, but it doesn't seem that this message is getting around the UK quick enough and honest businesses are falling the victim of intimidation, harassment and abuse.

The scam is that a Swedish based supplier, (in this case Lakatools, but also known as Carlos Sharpening), who sharpen tools, visit businesses as a potential new supplier. They arrived in a nice silver Mercedes (with foreign plate) and are dressed in suits. They try to avoid reception and go straight into the factory. They offer a **FREE** sample of tools to be sharpened and say they will give a price for their services. They leave their driving licence, car details etc if companies are worried that they won't get their tools back.

Then when they return they ask a shop floor person to sign a "collection notice", to state they have returned the tools. They then add a price to this and then their behaviour changes. They then demand £5000 for this service, which our current supplier would only charge £600, saying that they have an agreement on the price.

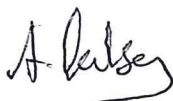
They do not have an official purchase order from the business, but they say that they now have a piece of paper from the business and want their money. When we refused to pay this money, they then said that they were travellers and threatened to come back with 40 caravans and park outside our business for 2 months.

Whilst they were on the premises, in the works office, they copied personal mobile numbers from our internal phone list on the wall and then they started calling the directors/managers of the business constantly. When their numbers were blocked, they withheld their number and still called. There was up to 300 phone calls. In other articles that we have read, it is apparent that they try to bypass management and get access into works offices to obtain letterheads, purchase order books and personal information, to forge purchase orders and gain ways to intimidate.

We contacted the police and completed a report with the national fraud squad. The police said that this was a civil matter and couldn't do anything until they turned up at our offices again. We pushed this further and reported the harassment of the phone calls and we actually recorded them threatening us as evidence.

If you have been a victim of this crime or they have visited your business please contact the police, national fraud squad on [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) 0300 123 2040 and trading standards 03454 040506 and watchdog ([watchdog@bbc.co.uk](mailto:watchdog@bbc.co.uk) mention rogue traders at top of email)

They actually came back to the offices the day after, with 2 other adults and 2 children, but we had already instructed that our gates be locked. We called the police, but they didn't stay long and continued with the phone calls all week. Looking at other stories, they want to encourage an altercation to then sue for assault. We have sent out warnings to all our contacts, put messages on linked in and contacted the local papers in order to raise awareness. As yet they have not returned with 40 caravans!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Falsey'.

Amanda Falsey  
Finance Director