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For Immediate Release
February 23, 2006

BURLINGTON TECHNOLOGIES INC. FINED \$125,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

BRANTFORD, Ont. – Burlington Technologies Inc., an automotive parts manufacturer based in Burlington, Ont., with a plant in Brantford, was fined \$125,000 on February 22, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in burns to an employee.

On November 15, 2003, a worker entered an access gate on a “die-casting machine” (a machine that produces metal forms for automotive parts) to see if the machine’s “launder” (a device through which molten material passes) had become clogged when the worker was struck by a “ladle” (a scooping device) containing molten metal. The worker was able to duck to avoid being pinned between the ladle and launder, but the worker’s shirt caught on fire. The worker received second and third degree burns to the back. The incident occurred at the company’s plant at 150 Garden Avenue in Brantford.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found an “interlock safety switch” (an electronic device) on the access gate was broken. If functioning, the switch would have automatically shut down the machine when the gate was opened in order to prevent the worker from coming in contact with moving parts on the die-casting machine. The company was aware the switch had been broken since September 1, 2003, but had not repaired it. Instead, the company had tried to institute an interim lockout procedure by affixing a lock to the gate. However, the procedure was not followed or enforced by the company.

Burlington Technologies Inc. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure the interlock switch on the gate was maintained in good condition. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(b) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Kerry Boon of the Ontario Court of Justice in Brantford. In addition, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

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Court Information at a Glance

Location:	Ontario Court of Justice 102 Wellington Square, Courtroom 1 Brantford, Ontario
Judge:	Justice of the Peace Kerry Boon
Date / Time:	February 22, 2006, 10:30 a.m.
Defendant:	Burlington Technologies Inc.
Matter:	Occupational Health & Safety

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