

Company fined for poor condition of asbestos containing materials

A company which manufactures and distributes furniture was fined £6,000 for failing to properly assess the risk from exposure to asbestos containing materials.

Glasgow Sheriff Court heard that, during an inspection on 6 August 2014, concerns were raised by a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspector about significant damage to what appeared to be asbestos containing materials which were encasing the structural columns and beams of the premises.

An investigation by HSE found that Aquapac Limited failed to properly assess the risks to employees' exposure to asbestos containing materials and failed to take measures necessary to protect employees from exposure to asbestos. The investigation also found that the company failed to ensure that anyone working on the premises was aware of the presence of the material (to make sure that it was not disturbed and to deal with any inadvertent disturbance to prevent the spread of asbestos fibres).

Aquapac Limited of The Quadrangle, 59 Ruchill Street, Glasgow G20 9PX pleaded guilty to breaching of Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £6,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Russell Berry said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided had the company simply monitored the condition of the asbestos containing materials (ACMs) at their premises and had in place robust procedures to deal with any deterioration or damage to those ACMs.

"Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate action against those that fall below the required standards."

Notes to Editors:

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. hse.gov.uk
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: legislation.gov.uk/
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

Journalists should approach HSE press office with any queries on regional press releases.

Construction firm and director fined for failure to comply with prohibition notices

D & S Building Solutions Ltd and its director Daniel Schipor have been fined after failing to comply with prohibition notices.

Westminster Magistrates' Court heard how D & S Solutions Ltd, under the control of its director Daniel Schipor, was issued with two prohibition notices on site. It was found that persons were at serious risk of fall and injury from the unprotected edges of an excavation and at immediate risk of injury from potential collapse of the unsupported excavation.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that D & S Building Solutions Ltd and Daniel Schipor had not taken any steps to comply with the prohibition notices prohibiting any work near the open edge of the excavation, and had not taken measures to prevent dislodgement of material and collapse of the excavation.

D & S Building Solutions Ltd of George V Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex pleaded guilty to two counts of breaching Section 22 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,000

Daniel Schipor pleaded guilty to breaching two counts of Section 37 by virtue of Section 22 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. He was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,000

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Saif Deen said: "The risks associated with work related to excavations are well known throughout the construction industry. "D & S Building Solutions Ltd and Daniel Schipor failed to comply with prohibition notices and continued to put persons at risk of serious injury."

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Two companies fined after worker fell from height

A contractor and scaffolding company were sentenced today for safety breaches after a worker fell five metres from a roof.

Leeds Magistrates' Court heard how in December 2015 Jhanade Ryan, a sub-contractor working for Centreco (UK) Ltd, was installing solar panels to the roof of Firth Steels, Brighouse.

Mr Ryan suffered life changing injuries. He slipped on the roof, sliding down to the edge protection. The toe board of the edge protection snapped and he fell through the scaffold, landing on a sub-station flat roof. He sustained a fracture to his spine, a broken coccyx and nerve damage. Mr Ryan was in hospital for almost three months and is now unable to work due to ongoing mobility issues.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the scaffolding company had not erected the scaffold to a known industry standard or design.

The investigation also found roof lights were present on the roof and that the contractor had failed to take effective measures to prevent workers falling through these fragile surfaces.

Oswestry Shropshire Scaffold Ltd of Pool Cottage, Oswestry, Shropshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £28,800 and ordered to pay £945.20 in costs.

Centreco (UK) Ltd of Hearle House, Chorley, Lancs pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £33,500 and ordered to pay £945.20 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Jayne Towey commented: "Falls from height often result in life changing or fatal injuries. In most cases these accidents are needless and could be prevented by properly planning to ensure that effective preventative and protective measures are in place such as edge protection or barriers built to the correct standard."

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3. Further HSE news releases are available at press.hse.gov.uk
4. For further information please visit hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/workingatheight.htm

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Pembrokeshire man sentenced after worker seriously injured

A man has been sentenced to 18 weeks in prison after a worker received serious injuries from an electric shock.

Swansea Crown Court heard that, on 12 March 2014, Mr Hearne, under instruction from George Jones, sustained serious injuries whilst plugging a tyre stripping machine into a wall socket. The incident, which took place at Carew Cars, Carew Airfield, Pembrokeshire, could easily have led to a fatality.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the electrical installation at the unit in Carew Airfield operated by George Jones as part of his scrap metal business was unsafe and was more suited to a domestic premise. The socket in use was in poor condition with exposed wires. The roof of the building had holes in it and there was evidence of water ingress on the wall behind the socket which contributed to the incident.

George William Edward Jones of Strawberry Fields, Pembrokeshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 4 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison to run concurrently with his existing sentence.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Anne Marie Orrells said: "This case highlights the importance of regular proactive maintenance and inspection of work equipment, including electrical installations, to ensure that they do not deteriorate to the extent that it puts people at risk.

"In this case, George Jones failed to effectively maintain equipment and it could have resulted in a fatal injury."

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Injection moulding company fined after worker injured

An injection moulding company has been fined after a worker suffered serious injuries whilst trying to free a blockage.

Wrexham Magistrates' Court heard how a Brother Industries (UK) Limited employee was injured whilst trying to clear a blockage on a plastics injection moulding machine, resulting in serious burns and multiple fractures to his heel and causing him to miss three months of work.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident, which occurred on the 20 December 2016, found that there was no safe system of work for clearing blockages on plastic injection moulding machines.

Brother Industries (UK) Limited of Vauxhall Industrial Estate, Ruabon, Wrexham pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and have been fined £150,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,659.98.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Christina Roberts said: "Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of work and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of work."

“If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, the life changing injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented.”

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