

# Textiles manufacturer fined after employee suffers serious burns at work

A textiles manufacturer was fined after a worker was seriously injured when he was covered by hot dye and steam during a maintenance job at the company's site in Alfreton, Derbyshire.

South Derbyshire Magistrates' Court heard how, on 4 June 2019, a maintenance worker was checking a fault on an industrial dye pressure vessel, used to dye long lengths of fabric, after steam had been seen coming from the main drain vent. A valve was slightly open and air lines were removed and replaced in incorrect positions, which caused the valve to instantly open releasing 6,000 litres of hot dye liquor. The employee suffered 20 per cent burns to his body including both arms, legs and buttocks.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Guilford Europe Ltd did not have effective procedures in place for fault-finding when employees encountered a problem with machinery. There were no instructions to employees on what constituted fault-finding or at what stage, isolation of the plant was required. Neither was there any requirement for a permit system for undertaking maintenance on pressure systems. There was also an insufficient level of monitoring in place to review maintenance operations to ensure employees were working safely.

Guilford Europe Ltd of Cotes Park Industrial Estate, Somercotes, Alfreton, Derbyshire pleaded guilty of breaching Section 2(1) of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974. They were fined £100,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,751.60.

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

"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."

## 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](http://hse.gov.uk)
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [legislation.gov.uk/](http://legislation.gov.uk/)
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

The post [Textiles manufacturer fined after employee suffers serious burns at work](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

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## [Unregistered gas engineer sentenced after multiple breaches](#)

A self-employed gas engineer has been sentenced after carrying out illegal gas work and breaching a HSE Prohibition Notice.

Bournemouth Crown Court heard how Dean Coslett trading as Dorset Boiler Company, undertook gas work at a number of properties in Dorset between December 2017 and April 2019 whilst he was not registered with the Gas Safe Register. Mr Coslett used false Gas Safe Register registration numbers on paperwork he issued and left gas appliances incorrectly installed.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Dean Coslett had not installed a number of gas appliances to the correct safety standards. On 12 September 2018, HSE served Dean Coslett with a Prohibition Notice prohibiting him from undertaking gas work whilst not registered with the Gas Safe Register. However, he breached this Prohibition Notice by continuing to undertake unregistered gas work.

Dean Coslett of Sevenoaks Drive, Bournemouth pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 3(3) and 3(7) of the Gas Safety (installation and Use) Regulations 1998 and Section 33(1)(g) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. He was

sentenced to a three-year community supervision order, ordered to undertake 200 hours unpaid work and undertake 30 days of offender rehabilitation work. He was also ordered to pay £900 compensation to a number of homeowners for the substandard work he undertook at their homes.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Simon Jones said: “Dean Coslett undertook gas work, which he knew he was not registered to do and flagrantly breached an order prohibiting him from undertaking gas work whilst he was not registered. All gas work must be done by registered Gas Safe engineers to ensure the highest standards are met to prevent injury and loss of life.”

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## [Unregistered gas engineer sentenced for illegal gas work](#)

Unregistered gas fitter Dean Mulholland Blues has been sentenced after putting lives at risk by carrying out illegal gas work at several properties in the north east.

Newcastle Crown Court heard that, from September 2016 to December 2017, the defendant advertised his ‘services’ on various social media sites using false names, several telephone numbers and at least three bank accounts to evade detection. His illegal gas work put lives at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning, asphyxiation, fire and explosion due to his poor workmanship.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the defendant has never been registered with Gas Safe Register, nor was he competent to carry out gas work.

Dean Mulholland Blues of Annand Way, Newton Aycliffe pleaded guilty to 24

breaches of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. He was sentenced to a 3 year custodial sentence and was disqualified from being the director of a company for 12 years.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Jonathan Wills said: "Anyone employed to work on gas appliances in domestic premises must be a Gas Safe registered engineer and competent in that area of gas work. The gas engineer's competencies are clearly marked on the back of the back of the engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card. If in any doubt you can contact the Gas Safe Register or check their website to see if the engineer is registered."

He added: "If anyone has had any gas work carried out by Mr Blues, I urge them to ensure that the work is now checked by a registered Gas Safe Register engineer as soon as possible."

#### **Notes to editors:**

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We reduce work-related death, injury and ill health. It does so through research, information and advice, promoting training; new or revised regulations and codes of practice, and working with local authority partners by inspection, investigation and enforcement. [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
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## **[Director fined after young worker injured in fall from height](#)**

Wayne McKnight (trading as RJE Construction) has been fined for safety breaches after a 17-year-old worker fell from a mezzanine floor to the ground below.

Sheffield Magistrates' Court heard that, on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the worker and two others were building the mezzanine floor at a site in Neepsend Lane, Sheffield. The injured person stepped on a loose board and fell 2.8 metres to the ground below, sustaining cuts and bruises.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that safety nets had not been put in place before boarding commenced. No other fall from height protection was present to prevent or mitigate falls through the mezzanine floor.

Wayne McKnight (trading as RJE Construction) Park Crescent, Sunning Dale, Ascot Berkshire pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 6 (3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2015. Mr McKnight has been fined £500 and ordered to pay costs of £1,300

After the hearing, HSE inspector Sarah Robinson commented: “Falls from height often result in life-changing or fatal injuries, which thankfully did not eventuate here. In most cases, these incidents are needless and could be prevented by properly planning the work to ensure that effective preventative and protective measures are in place.

“This incident could have easily been prevented if the company had installed safety nets prior to work starting on the mezzanine.”

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2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [legislation.gov.uk/](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/)<sup>[2]</sup>
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk><sup>[3]</sup>
4. Please see the link below to the page on HSE’s website that is the best guide to doing it the right way: [www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/workinheight](https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/workinheight)

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## [School fined after worker injured in fall from ladder](#)

Southend High School for Boys Academy Trust has been sentenced after a worker fell from a ladder.

Chelmsford Magistrates' Court heard how, on 19 February 2019, the injured person was using an unsecured ladder at the school to dismantle a canopy roof when the ladder slipped, causing the worker to fall and sustain fractures to his face, a fractured femur and other injuries.

An investigation by Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the school did not have a risk assessment or safe system for dismantling the canopy roof which resulted in the work being conducted unsafely. No assessment was made as to the fragility of the roof before accessing it, suitable equipment was not provided, the injured person was not trained and the work was not supervised. The investigation also found that other work at height at the school was also carried out without specific planning, supervision and was not carried out safely.

Southend High School for Boys Academy Trust of Prittlewell Chase, Westcliff On Sea, Essex pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £24,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,446.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Eleanor Kinman said: "Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work-related fatalities in this country and the risks associated with working at height are well known.

"Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working.

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

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2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [legislation.gov.uk/](http://legislation.gov.uk/)
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
4. For more information on how to work safely at height, please visit: [hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/step-by-steo-guide..htm](http://hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/step-by-steo-guide..htm)

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