

£100,000 fine for food processing firm after worker severs finger

A food processing firm has been hit with a £100,000 fine after a worker severed part of her finger when her hand was caught in machinery at a site in Devon.

The 37-year-old woman was employed by Amber Foods Limited at a site in Cullompton, when the incident happened on 31 October 2018. She had been working on a Meyn eviscerator – a conveyor-fed machine that slices and separates chicken livers and hearts – when she noticed a build-up of offcuts around the blades. Believing the machine had stopped, she reached in to unblock the area but her hand was caught by the moving conveyor, partially severing her right index finger.



The 37-year-old severed part of her finger in the food processing machine

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the blade and chute area of the machine lacked effective guarding, failing to prevent any person coming into contact with the moving parts.

At a hearing at Taunton Magistrates Court, Amber Foods Limited of Trinity Park Business Park, Wakefield, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 2 (1) of the Health and Safety At Work Act 1974. They were fined £100,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,241.

Speaking afterwards, HSE inspector James Collins said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply implementing correct control measures for machinery guarding and safe working practices.

"Employers should make sure they properly assess risk and apply effective control measures to protect workers from dangerous parts of machinery."

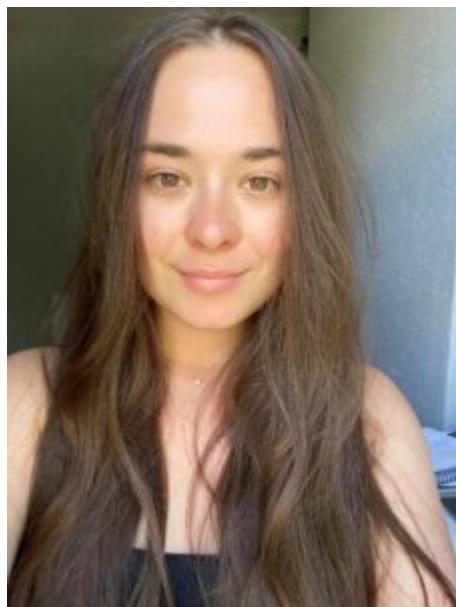
Notes to editors

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.
2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is available.
3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.

Podcast launched to help disabled people and those with long-term health conditions in the workplace

Britain's workplace regulator has just launched a podcast outlining seven principles to support disabled workers and those with long-term health conditions to thrive in the workplace.

Late last year the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) launched [new guidance](#) on what employers can do to support staff.



Rebecca Hyrslova, FSB

This guidance is openly discussed by host Mick Ord, former BBC Radio journalist, Moya Woolley, Occupational Health Policy Team Leader at HSE and Rebecca Hyrslova, Policy Advisor at Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in a [new podcast](#).

An estimated 149.3 million working days were lost because of sickness or

injury in the UK in 2021, equivalent to 4.6 days per worker.

The HSE guidance focuses on early and supportive action from employers, outlines employers' responsibilities, and preventative steps they can take to help people stay in work and be a productive team member.



Moya Woolley, HSE

Mick, Moya, and Rebecca discuss seven principles to support disabled workers and workers with long-term health conditions in work:

[Create a supportive and enabling workplace](#)

[Take an inclusive approach to workplace health](#)

[Understand the work barriers that impact on workers](#)

[Make suitable workplace adjustments or modifications](#)

[Develop skills, knowledge and understanding](#)

[Use effective and accessible communication](#)

[Support sickness absence and return to work](#)

Listen to the [podcast](#) now.

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London joinery firm fined £20,000 for failing to control wood dust

A joinery firm in South East London has been fined £20,000 for failing to control its employees' exposure to wood dust.

F&E Joinery Limited, in Herne Hill, was inspected in May 2022 as part of a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) campaign targeting woodworking businesses due to the significant health risks associated with [exposure to wood dust](#), including the risk of developing occupational asthma. During the visit the inspector identified multiple failings related to control of exposure to wood dust, including excessive levels of settled dust around the site (shown in the images below).



The inspection was carried out in May 2022

The inspection found some of the company's machines had been disconnected from the local exhaust ventilation (LEV) system, which is used to extract wood dust at source during machining of wood. There was no way to connect other machines to the system. LEV significantly reduces the amount of wood dust that becomes airborne and inhaled when machined. There was also no evidence that settled wood dust was being cleaned up.

The company had been served with an enforcement notice relating to their control of wood dust on two previous occasions spanning over ten years.

On 21 April 2023, at Westminster Magistrates' Court, F & E Joinery Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 7(1) of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (as amended) Regulations 2002 and was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,500.



The firm had already been served two enforcement notices over a ten-year period

HSE inspector Marcus Pope said: "This case sends out a clear message to the industry that HSE will prosecute when inspectors find serious health and safety failings, particularly when previous enforcement and advice has been provided.

"Exposure to wood dust causes various occupational lung diseases which can significantly affect the quality of people's lives, and in some cases result in premature death. HSE continues to target the woodworking industry and strongly urges businesses to consult its website for further information to ensure that control of exposure is managed, and their statutory duties are complied with."

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3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.
4. Further information about control of [exposure to wood dust](#) is available.

Teenager fell more than 20 feet through roof of Bodmin dairy farm

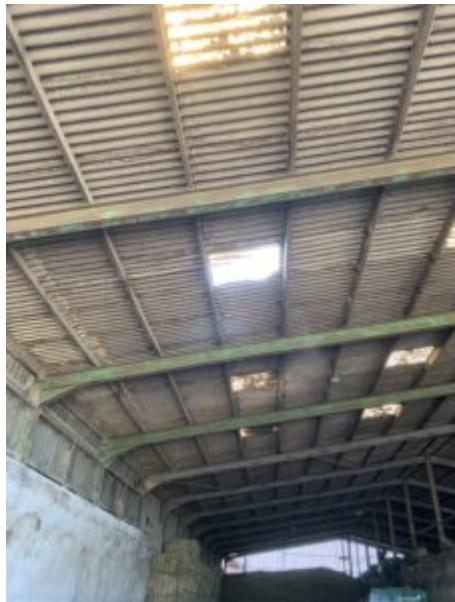
A Bodmin dairy farm has been fined more than £60,000 after one of its workers sustained multiple injuries when he fell more than 20 feet through a roof on to a concrete floor.

Mike Rossiter, was just 18 when he was airlifted to Derriford hospital in Plymouth after the shed roof he was clearing gutters from gave way. As well as rupturing his spleen and liver, the farm worker also fractured several vertebrae. An additional fracture to his left elbow required surgery and a permanent plate in his arm.

"I was in hospital for two-and-a-half weeks," he explained.

"I have been left with permanent damage in my arm and no longer have full movement and I'm unable to lift and carry heavy things.

"I recently found the cold weather is making it worse, so I now have to take the weather into account when I am working outside."



Mike Rossiter fell more than 20 feet through a shed roof

A keen rugby player before the incident, 20-year-old Mr Rossiter, went on to say that despite being back in work and fully-supported by his employer, he still fears for his long-term future in the industry.

"My employer has given me a job that doesn't involve heavy lifting," he said.

"I don't know how much longer I will be able to keep working in the farming industry as a result of my injuries.

"I am hoping this will not be the case as I enjoy what I am doing and would not like to leave the profession."

Plymouth Magistrates Court heard that employees of C.P. Button Limited were clearing the gutters on the grain and silage pit shed roofs on 13 July 2021. Although they were using crawling boards, Mr Rossiter had stood on a fragile rooflight, which failed under his weight causing him to fall.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company failed to control the risk of falls. They failed to adequately assess the risks and did not have a safe system of work. Wider failings were identified in respect of the information, instruction, training, and supervision provided for the employees involved. HSE guidance can be found at:

[Agriculture: Preventing falls \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/preventing-falls.htm)



CP Button Limited were fined more than £60k at Plymouth Magistrates Court

C.P. Button Limited, of St Tudy, Bodmin, Cornwall, pleaded guilty to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 after failing to ensure so far as reasonably practicable the health and safety and welfare at work of all its employees against the risk of falling when carrying out the planned maintenance task of clearing gutters. The company was fined £63,466 and ordered to pay £4,223.50 in costs at Plymouth Magistrates' Court on 20 April 2023.

HM Inspector of Health and Safety James Hole said: "This was a wholly avoidable incident which resulted in life changing injuries.

"Roughly half the deaths and serious injuries caused by falls in agriculture involve work on fragile roofs.

"Any work on roofs should be adequately planned and suitable protection should be provided which will normally include a combination of coverings, guard rails, safety nets and safety harnesses."

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4. HSE guidance can be found at: [Agriculture: Preventing falls \(hse.gov.uk\)](#)

Company fined for putting workers at risk of exposure to radiation

A company in Cornwall has been fined after putting its employees at risk of exposure to ionising radiation over a ten-year period.

In 2009, Terrill Bros (Founders) Limited's external Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA) identified failings in the access controls and warning systems at the company's foundry on Guildford Road, Hayle, Cornwall. In the ten years following, the company received further RPA visits, reports and advice, yet remedial action was not taken.

The company's failure to address these issues continued until the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) carried out an unannounced inspection of the foundry in February 2019.

A HSE investigation found the door to the company's industrial radiography enclosure did not have adequate interlocks nor was there a suitable trapped key system to prevent access. There were also no pre-exposure warning systems or automatic and failsafe warning lights in place. Employees at Terrill Bros (Founders) Limited were put at risk of exposure to high dose rates of ionising radiation by the company's reliance on administrative controls, rather than installing industry standard engineering controls.



The door to the company's industrial radiography enclosure

HSE guidance can be found at: [Health and Safety: Ionising Radiation \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk)

Terrill Bros (Founders) Limited, of Guildford Road, Hayle, Cornwall, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 9(1) of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017, and Regulation 8(1) of the preceding Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999. The company was fined £33,750 and ordered to pay costs of £47,601 at Truro Crown Court on 14 April 2023.

Karen Fuller, HSE Specialist Inspector of Radiation, said: "This situation could so easily have been avoided by acting on the advice received from their RPA and installing appropriate control measures.

"All companies carrying out industrial radiography must ensure they have appropriate access controls and warning systems for their enclosures. Only then can they be confident that any exposure to ionising radiation is kept as low as reasonably practicable and the risks of accidental exposure are minimised.

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

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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>
4. HSE guidance can be found at: [Health and Safety: Ionising Radiation \(hse.gov.uk\)](http://www.hse.gov.uk/ionisingradiation/)