

Contractor fined after fall through skylight

A construction company, Modern Ltd, has been sentenced after a worker fell through a skylight.

Hendon Magistrates' Court heard how, on 12 May 2017, a worker was carrying out cladding work from a flat roof in Chiswick. In collecting his tools, the worker walked across, a covered skylight, which he assumed to be strong enough to take his weight. The worker fell through this skylight and because of his injuries he is still yet to return to work.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had failed to plan or supervise the work at height. As such an opening where a skylight was going to be installed was covered with a fragile material. The workers on site thought this was a solid surface.

Modern Ltd of Brentwick Gardens, London, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of The Work at Height Regulations 2005 and was fined £31,250.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Adam Thompson commented "The risks associated with fragile roofs are known throughout the construction industry.

"Failing to protect workers from this risk is inexcusable"

Notes to Editors:

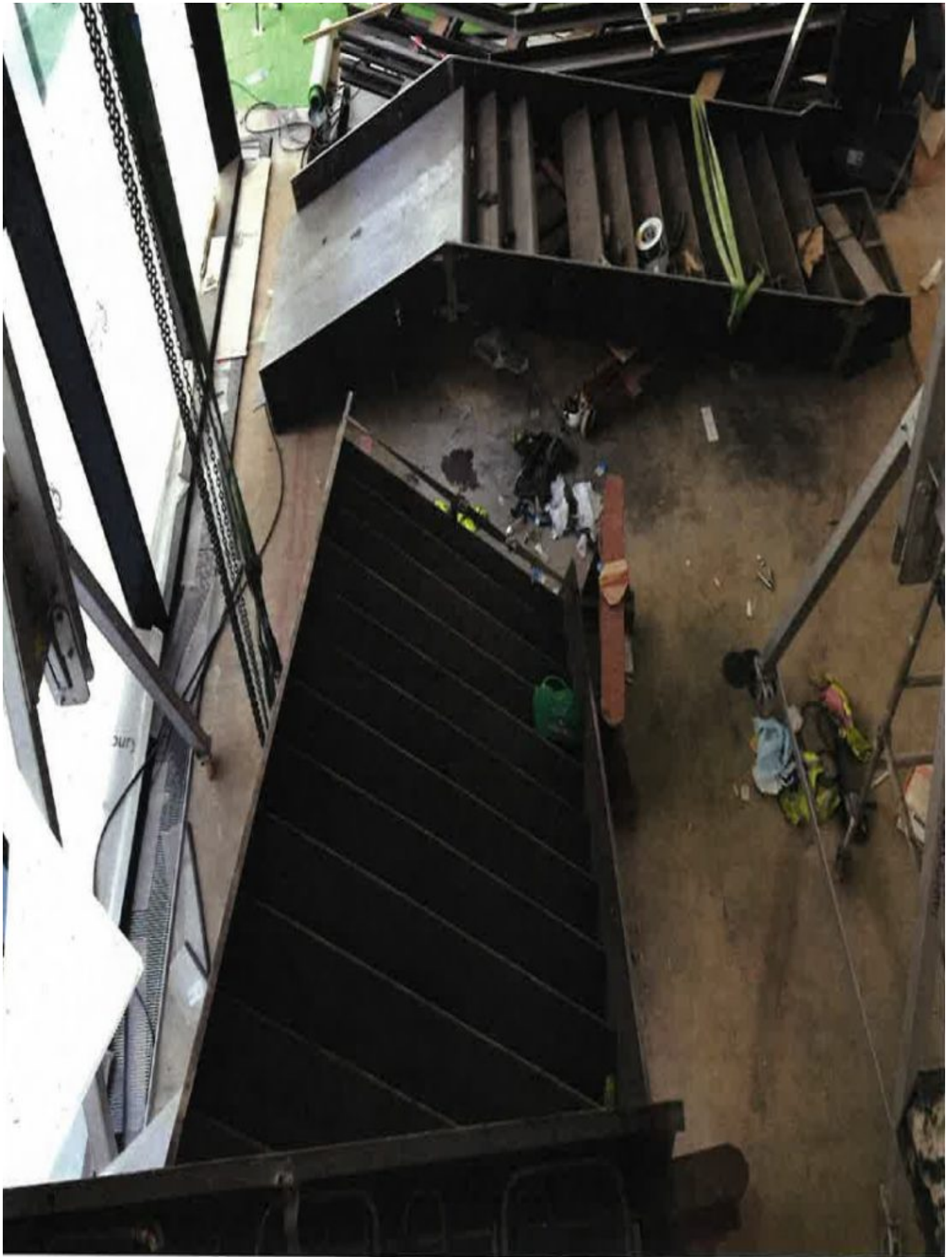
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2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk/
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

The post [Contractor fined after fall through skylight](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

Industrial staircase installer fined after worker trapped

A company specialising in the manufacture and installation of industrial staircases has been fined following an incident where a worker became trapped at a site on Fenchurch Avenue in London.

Westminster Magistrates' Court heard that on 19 July 2018 Dragos Sultana suffered serious injuries when a section of staircase weighing 1.7 tonnes fell and trapped his leg. The staircase was being lifted into position when one of the fabric slings supporting the load failed, causing one side of the staircase to drop and striking Mr Sultana. His injuries resulted in the amputation of his leg just below the groin.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Leyton Group Construction Ltd failed to properly plan the lifting operation. The lift plan was not specific to the job and the method statement lacked the level of detail required about the load, how it should be slung and how it

should be lifted. This resulted in the slings being stretched across the sharp metal edges of the staircase stringers, which caused a shearing action and ultimate failure of one the slings.

Leyton Group Construction Ltd of Swinborne Road, Basildon pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 8 (1) of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) was fined £14,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,227.14.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE principal inspector Tania van Rixtel said:

“The method employed for lifting the staircase was unsafe. This case highlights the need for duty holders to properly plan all lifting operations before work is carried out to manage the risk of injury to workers. This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.

“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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[Company fined after employees exposed to Respirable Crystalline Silica](#)

A playground installation and landscaping contractor has been fined after failing to provide employees with adequate control measures to prevent exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS).

Greater Manchester Magistrates' Court heard how on 23 March 2018, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) carried out unannounced inspection of a site at Newbank Garden Centre, Bury Road, Radcliffe. The HSE inspector served a Prohibition Notice to stop two employees of Playscape Design Ltd, using a powered tool to cut flags without any respiratory protective equipment. This put the health of the employees at risk due to exposure to RCS, which is released when silica-containing materials are cut with a powered tool.

HSE then served an Improvement Notice, requiring the company to provide adequate control from exposure to RCS. The investigation found the company did not provide evidence of compliance within the deadline and a second, similar job was completed at the same site with no adequate control measures in place.

Playscape Design Limited of Ball Grove Drive, Colne, Lancashire, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 7(1) of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 and also admitted not complying with an Improvement Notice, which is an offence under Section 33(1)(g) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,000.

HSE inspector Rebecca Hamer, said after the hearing: "The working conditions we encountered were putting the health of the employees at risk due to exposure to RCS, which is released when silica-containing materials are cut with a powered tool.

"Exposure to respirable crystalline silica can cause life-threatening diseases including silicosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), which can lead to impaired lung function, lung cancer and death. This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.

"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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3. More information about respiratory protective equipment at work can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pUbns/priced/hsg53.pdf>
4. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

The post [Company fined after employees exposed to Respirable Crystalline](#)

[Silica](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Company fined after child seriously injured in road traffic incident](#)

An adventure activity and team building organisation has been fined after a child was hit by a car seriously injured whilst on a school trip.

Birmingham Magistrates' Court heard how, on Friday 31 March 2017, a group of teenage school children from Birmingham were participating in a walking expedition on the outskirts of Birmingham. The route being taken required the group and their adult supervisor to cross the busy A45 dual carriageway near Meriden, West Midlands, at around 4pm.

After waiting for a gap in the traffic some of the children started crossing the road when one of the pupils was struck by a car travelling in the outside lane. The 15-year-old suffered multiple fractures as a result of the collision.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found Freax, the company responsible for the expedition had not planned the route to allow for safe passage across the dual carriageway. There were no specific traffic control measures in place at the crossing point used by the participants, and the company chose not to use a footbridge about 400 metres away as part of

the expedition route.

Freax Limited of Nechells Park Road, Birmingham was found guilty of breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £22,455.16 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Richard Littlefair said: "This case highlights the importance of planning for safety when organising such outdoor activities involving school children.

"Children should be allowed to take part in challenging activities, however there is a balance to be struck between protecting children from the most serious risks and allowing them to reap the benefits of participating.

"Companies should make sure that challenging activities are managed in a sensible and proportionate way so that children are not exposed to unnecessary risk of serious personal injury or death."

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[Freight forwarding company fined after warehouse operative suffers crush injuries](#)

Airworld Airlines Ltd has been fined £82,000 after a freight container weighing nearly 700kg fell on a worker at a warehouse in Hounslow

Westminster Magistrates' Court heard how, on 26 January 2018, a warehouse cargo agent was using a forklift truck to offload a freight container from a

heavy goods vehicle at the site on the Hatton Cross Centre. The container became unstable and fell on him. As a result, he was pinned between the container and a concrete pedestrian barrier, sustaining serious injuries including multiple fractures and internal injuries.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had no safe system of work in place to identify the risk of freight containers falling from forklift truck blades. The company had also made alterations to the fork lift blades to enable employees to lift aircraft containers from the floor without any stabilisation mechanism.

District Judge Baraitser described Airworld Airlines Ltd's lifting operation as a "dangerous practice [which] presented a significant risk not only to the operator of the forklift but to any member of staff who happened to be in the vicinity of the operation as it was being carried out."

Airworld Airlines Ltd of Ascot, Berkshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £82,000 and ordered to pay £6575.60 costs and £170.00 victim surcharge.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Sarah Pearce said: "Employers have a responsibility to devise safe methods of carrying out lifting operations and should ensure that every lifting operation is properly planned, appropriately supervised and carried out in a safe manner.

"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. Further information is available about the [legislation referred to in this case](#).
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