

Company fined after worker seriously injured

A North-West specialist sheet metal fabrication company has been fined after an employee was left seriously injured when metal sheets fell onto his leg.

Liverpool Magistrates' Court heard how, on 5 February 2016, the employee and his supervisor were searching for materials within the workshop of Shearfab Limited when metal sheets that were not safely secured fell onto the employee's leg. The employee suffered a fracture to his left leg that required an operation to insert a large metal plate with nine screws.

The HSE investigation found that the company, despite previously being served improvement notices, had no system to ensure the sheet metal was always stored safely, the company had fixed and mobile racking, but there was no system in place to ensure they were used effectively.

Shearfab Limited, of Oldgate, St Michaels Industrial Estate, Widnes, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and was fined £10,000 with full prosecution costs.

HSE inspector Kate Lyon said after the hearing: "This was an entirely preventable incident. There were a number of failings however the underlying cause was poor health and safety management. Hopefully others can learn from this incident and adopt safer and better working practices. Metal plates and sheets are most stable when laid flat. When stacked on edge they should always be adequately supported in suitable storage equipment, such as toast racking."

More information regarding safe storage and handling of steel and other metal stock can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg246.pdf>

Notes to editors

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. It aims to 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
 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>
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Updated online Asbestos Essentials for Non-Licensed work with asbestos

Asbestos Essentials is a task manual for building, maintenance and allied trades on how to safely carry out non-licensed work involving asbestos.

Asbestos essentials task sheets

For advice on when and how you should use these sheets make sure you printout and read [A0 – Introduction to Asbestos essentials](#).

Equipment and method sheets

Work with asbestos cement (AC) (non-licensed)

Working with textured coatings (TC) containing asbestos (non-licensed)

Strictly controlled minor work on Asbestos Insulating Board (AIB)

Safe work with undamaged asbestos materials

Removal and replacement of other asbestos containing materials

Fly-tipped waste

Case 411 – Safety pins on swimming pool locker keys

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[Case 410 – Children at a school have been banned from eating pack lunches outside](#)

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[Harrogate & District Health & Safety Forum – ‘Offence to Sentencing’ the process – Harrogate, 4 Oct 2017](#)

This event is being organised by ‘The Harrogate & District Health and Safety Forum’, a partnership between Local Businesses, HSE and Harrogate Borough Council.

Date

Wednesday 4th October 2017, 11:45 – 16.30

Location

The Pavilions, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate HG2 8NZ

Event overview

Health and Safety offences may be identified during routine inspections, following accidents/ incidents in the workplace or as a result of complaints. This could result in a number of actions which may significantly affect your business. Do you know what to do if this happens? Do you know what to expect?

This event aims to give you an understanding of the process which may be followed should a serious incident happen in your business. It will explain the range of options which enforcement officers can use in relation to non-compliance.

It will give guidance on when and how a business can/should conduct its own investigation, the role and scope of the investigating enforcement officer during an investigation and includes a case study of a workplace fatality.

The complex process of preparing for court, court procedures the new sentencing guidelines and corporate manslaughter will be covered by a legal expert. This event is suitable for all business types, self-employed and other interested parties.

Booking and further information

For online booking, full programme and speakers list visit the Harrogate & District Health & Safety forum [‘Offence to Sentencing’ the process](#) web page.