

Farming company fined after worker injured in fall from height

A Somerset farming company has been fined after a worker fell 3 metres from a silage clamp onto a concrete floor, sustaining life changing injuries.

Yeovil Magistrates' Court heard how Ian Stewart, a contract herdsman for Evercreech Park Farms Ltd, fractured two vertebrae in his neck and back, suffered nerve damage and was in intensive care for four days when he fell from an adjacent silage clamp whilst assisting lining the walls of a silage bay.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident, which occurred on the 16 May 2016, found the company did not have a risk assessment or safe system of work in place for working at height. The investigation also found it would have been reasonably practicable to carry out these tasks in other safer ways, such as by using a mobile elevating work platform

Evercreech Park Farms Ltd of Shepton Mallet pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and has been fined £16,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,467.07.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Annette Walker said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out safe working practices."

"If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, the life changing injuries sustained by Mr Stewart 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^[1]
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: legislation.gov.uk/ ^[2]
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>^[3]
4. Further information about safe techniques can be found at: hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg270.htm www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg401.pdf

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

Company fined after death of worker

A Somerset pre-cast concrete products manufacturing company has been fined after a 43-year-old man was fatally injured when trapped by machinery.

Bath Magistrates' Court heard how Jeffery Baulf, a maintenance fitter employed by CPM Group Limited, was carrying out maintenance work while the machine was not isolated. A conveyor started moving and Mr Baulf suffered fatal injuries when he got trapped.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident, which occurred on the 3 October 2016, found the company had not implemented procedures to ensure machinery was isolated before starting maintenance work.

The Court heard that the maintenance task was authorised by Mr Baulf's supervisor but the required control measures were not checked before work started as the procedure required.

Access to dangerous moving parts of the machines at the site was generally controlled by enclosures which prevented access to the danger zones. Access into the enclosures was generally controlled by a special key system which should have made sure machinery was isolated and safe to work around when people entered the enclosure.

HSE told the Court that when the site was inspected after the incident a spare key was discovered, which meant that access to machinery in the incident area was possible without turning off and isolating the machine.

During the investigation HSE also found there was insufficient supervision over the isolation of machines; CPM's procedures for safe maintenance work were not consistently understood or applied, pointing to deficiencies in instruction and training; it was common for people to access dangerous areas while machines were running; and there were other spare keys which were easily accessible.

CPM Group Limited of Mells Road, Mells, Somerset, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and has been fined £660,000 and ordered to pay costs of £14,563.57.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Leo Diez said: "This tragic incident, which led to the avoidable death of a man, was easily prevented and the risk should have been identified."

"Employers should make sure they apply effective control measures to minimise the risk from dangerous parts of machinery. Maintenance work should only be carried out when the piece of plant / equipment is isolated and confirmed safe. There should not be any spare keys to captive key systems."

Mr Baulf's wife, Jayne, said: "Losing Jeff in this way was truly shocking and heart breaking for all of us. We think of him every minute of every day. Our lives will never be the same again. Knowing that CPM could have prevented it makes it all the more difficult to bear."

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Unlocking the potential of health and safety data – the Lloyd's Register Foundation and HSE 'DISCOVERING SAFETY' programme

Every year, huge amounts of incident investigation findings and operational health and safety data are collected globally. The Lloyd's Register Foundation (LRF) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), supported by the Thomas Ashton Institute are running an ambitious new programme, 'DISCOVERING SAFETY' which aims to substantially improve health and safety and ultimately save lives, particularly in poorer or developing nations.

The team have been working with industry, trade groups, international networks, governments, academia and other stakeholders to identify health and safety challenges and opportunities where deeper insights from data could make a significant impact. Important questions emerging from this work include 'How can we learn more about the root causes of product safety failures?' and 'What are the causes and circumstances leading to loss of containment accidents in high hazard industrial sites?'

These and other questions will be explored in a multi-disciplinary effort which will develop new techniques to aggregate and analyse health and safety data from sources around the world. The work will understand how to access

and use the data available and apply leading expertise in data science, data analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning. Much of the work will be underpinned by advances in areas such as text mining and language processing, which are expected to have important spin-off benefits.

The DISCOVERING SAFETY programme will build on the research outcomes to make a practical difference, applying the findings to international improvement initiatives, education and commercial tools and services.

By exploiting the value that data can bring to health and safety in a global context, DISCOVERING SAFETY will ultimately benefit both emerging and mature economies by reducing fatalities and injuries caused by industrial accidents and ill health. Organisations from all parts of the world will be able to develop strategies to sustain health and safety performance and to continue to make improvements to ensure longer term benefits and impact.

The team will be providing regular updates to the wider community. For more information please email: discoveringsafety@hse.gov.uk

Dr Ruth Boumphrey, Director of Research, Lloyd's Register Foundation welcomed the initiative:

"Everybody deserves to be safe at work. This programme will help us learn lessons from data and share knowledge between industries and across international borders. The more we can share, the better the insights, the safer the workers. There are huge technical challenges in this programme but the rewards will be great."

Professor Andrew Curran, Chief Scientific Adviser, HSE, agrees:

"Wouldn't it be fantastic if people could make decisions, safe in the knowledge that, "No workers were harmed during the making of this product or service"; this innovative Discovering Safety programme will use the combined expertise of HSE and the University of Manchester (through the Thomas Ashton Institute) to move us closer to this goal".

Notes to Editors

About the Health and Safety Executive

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About the Lloyd's Register Foundation

The Lloyd's Register Foundation is a UK charity established in 2012. With our mission to protect the safety of life and property, and to advance transport and engineering education and research, the Foundation has an important role to play in meeting the challenges of today and the future.

We meet our aims by awarding grants, by direct activity, and through the societal benefit activities of our trading group, which shares our mission. Through our grant making we aim to connect science, safety and society by supporting research of the highest quality and promoting skills and education.

About the Thomas Ashton Institute

The Thomas Ashton Institute draws upon the combined knowledge and experience of the University of Manchester and HSE to deliver research, learning and regulatory insights that widen the global conversation to enable a better working world.

Building upon the established reputation for excellence of its founding partner organisations, the Institute will inform and improve industry practice and regulatory intervention, helping to deliver safer, happier and healthier workplaces around the world.