

# Company fined after worker falls through fragile floor

A Colchester-based company has been fined after an employee fell through fragile ceiling tiles.

Basildon Magistrates' Court heard how, on 8 January 2016, a worker was asked to sort shoes which were stored on a floor, next to an unprotected area of fragile ceiling tiles. The worker fell through the fragile ceiling tiles, approximately 2.7m to the floor below suffering serious injuries to their pelvis which resulted in a five day stay in hospital.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had not implemented control measures for employees working near fragile ceiling tiles.

Indulgence Patisserie Limited of Clough Road, Colchester pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 9(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and has been fined £50,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,151.50

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Jessica Churchyard 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.

"Working on or near fragile surfaces should be properly assessed and managed. This case highlights the importance for companies to assess and control risks created by non-routine tasks."

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

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