

# Luxury yacht building company fined after engineer injured

A luxury yacht building company has been fined following an engineer losing consciousness after being struck on the back of the head by a solid metal bracket weighing 147kg.

Poole Magistrates' Court heard how the employee of Sunseeker International Limited was working under the hull of an 86-foot yacht adjusting the height of a prop when the bracket came free. The worker suffered a large laceration to the top of his head and lost consciousness. He suffered concussion for several weeks and pain in his neck from a torn muscle. He was off work for six weeks and received physiotherapy for 15 months.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident, which occurred on 28 January 2016, found that the company failed to provide a safe system of work to ensure safety during the task of realigning the brackets on the hull of the yacht.

Sunseeker International Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £167,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,000 and a victim surcharge of £120.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Victoria Bailey said: "Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to inform, instruct and train their workers in the safe system of working.

"If a suitable, safe system of work had been implemented prior to the incident, the serious injuries sustained by the employee 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. [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>