

# Company fined after putting workers at risk of a fall from height

A roofing contractor has been fined after a health and safety inspector came across two workers jet washing a steeply pitched roof on a house without adequate protection.

Manchester Magistrates' Court heard that on 5 December 2019, a HSE inspector observed the employees of Improvearoom LLP on the roof of a detached property in Hale Barns using two powerful jet washers unsafely; and without any means of fall protection such as scaffolding or harnesses. The inspector issued a prohibition notice and the work was stopped until suitable measures were put in place.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that poor planning from management led to the failure of the erection of scaffolding prior to the work being carried out.

Improvearoom LLP of Macclesfield Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport pleaded guilty to breaching Regulations 4(1) and 6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. The company was fined £20,000, ordered to pay costs of £2,981.20 and a victim surcharge of £180.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Phil Redman said: "Although the two workers should have raised concerns immediately with site management regarding the lack of scaffolding, it was the responsibility of the company to manage the job safely.

"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. Companies should be aware that unsafe work at height without suitable and sufficient controls in place is not acceptable and HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

#### 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: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk>
3. More information regarding safe working at height can be found at: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/workingatheight.htm>
4. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

The post [Company fined after putting workers at risk of a fall from height](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

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## [HSE-hosted UK Transition chemicals podcast](#)

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is hosting a series of free podcasts to help businesses that make, use or supply chemicals understand what actions they need to take to ensure they are prepared for the end of the UK Transition period, when independent GB chemical regimes will be in place from 1 January 2021.

The 'After UK Transition: Working with Chemicals' podcast is now available from all major podcast platforms. To find it, just search 'The HSE Podcast' on your chosen platform. Audiences can also register to receive notifications for each episode released using [this link](#).

Each episode focuses on a different chemicals regime, including Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR), Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC) regimes, Plant Protection Products (PPP) and Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals (REACH).

The series will be centred around business readiness for Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), ensuring audiences are well informed of the duties and obligations needed to comply with to access the GB market after the transition period ends.

Throughout the series, we will be joined by industry voices and experts from both HSE and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to address the key changes to legislation and providing information on the actions required before or from 1 January 2021.

Dr Matthew Penrose, HSE's Head of Chemicals (Future Readiness) Policy, said: "The planned series of podcasts are intended to advise and inform anyone who may work with or use chemicals in their day-to-day line of business of the

actions they need to take at the end of the UK Transition period.

“It could be a bigger company that produces chemicals or even a smaller business such as a metal fabricator that imports specialist powder coating products from the EU – either way they’ll be affected when independent GB chemicals regimes start.

“The podcasts complement information that is already available through the HSE website, bringing them to life in a more personal format to suit the needs of the digital age HSE want to provide as much information as possible on the changes to chemicals regulations that will come into place on 1 January 2021.

“Our experts provide insights and answer questions raised by industry voices covering all five chemicals regimes, which should help any business prepare for the end of the UK Transition.

“It is imperative that businesses and individuals who make, use or supply chemicals prepare for 1 Jan. If they don’t, they could face issues with products they use in everyday work.”

The first episode, focusing on Plant Protection Products (PPP/pesticides), is available to stream or download now.

Further details regarding how to prepare your business for the end of the UK Transition can be found via the [HSE site](#) and [DEFRA site](#).

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## [Companies fined for failing to comply with work at height regulations](#)

A large homebuilder and an electrical contractor have been sentenced for failing to comply with work at height regulations, resulting in serious injury of an electrician and placing other workers at risk of injury.

Southampton Magistrates’ Court heard that on 10 May 2018, workers were carrying out work to lay cabling and ducting in loft spaces at newly built residential properties in Swanmore, Southampton without suitable or sufficient protection from falls at height. A 49-year-old electrician fell through the plasterboard loft flooring sustaining multiple fractures to his ribs, shoulders and vertebrae. He also suffered a punctured lung.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that BDW Trading Ltd the registered name of Barratt Homes and David Wilson Homes; and Quayside Electrical Ltd had failed to prevent a fall from height. BWD Trading Ltd had created the loft space by installing the ceiling of the room below using plasterboard, known as top tacking, before the electricians had completed the installation of cables and ducting. This meant that work in the loft was above fragile plasterboard and sufficient precautions were not taken by either company to prevent the electrician from falling through the plasterboard.

BDW Trading Ltd of Barratt House, Cartwright Way, Forest Business Park, Bardon Hill, Coalville, Leicestershire pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 6(3) of The Work at Height Regulations 2005. The company was fined £140,000, ordered to pay costs of £3,689.15 and a victim surcharge of £170.

Quayside Electrical Ltd of Unit 22, Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate, Southampton, Hampshire pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 6(3) of The Work at Height Regulations 2005. They were fined £20,000 ordered to pay costs of £3,521.15 and a victim surcharge of £170.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Fiona Woods said: "Falls from height remain the most common cause of work-related fatalities and serious injuries in the construction industry. The risks associated with working at height are well known. It is important that those in control of working at height take appropriate control measures to safeguard workers and others."

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3. HSE news releases are available at: <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
4. Further information on working safely ay height can be found at: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/key-messages.htm>

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## Groundworks company fined after employee suffers multiple leg fractures in workplace incident

A groundworks company has been fined after an employee was injured when he was struck by a metal bow shackle whilst laying a sewer pipe.

Luton Magistrates' Court heard that on 19 July 2018, the employee – a machine cab operator was laying a High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) foul sewer pipe weighing 20 tonnes with three other plant operators who were positioned along a 240m trench to lift and drag the pipe. One of the slings being used to pull the pipe failed catastrophically causing a bow shackle linkage to be catapulted back towards the machine cab operator. The employee was hit in the leg by the solid metal shackle, which weighed 7.5kg causing multiple fractures that needed extensive surgery.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company had failed to ensure that the operation was safely planned and carried out, with appropriate supervision in place.

Smith Construction Group Limited of Maidstone Road, Kingston, Milton Keynes pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company was fined £55,440 and ordered to pay costs of £971.80.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Rauf Ahmed said: "This incident could have been avoided if the dutyholders had assessed the risks of the load handling operation and put appropriate safety measures in place.

"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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The post [Groundworks company fined after employee suffers multiple leg fractures in workplace incident](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

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## [Yoghurt and dessert manufacturer prosecuted after agency worker's fingers amputated](#)

A food company specialising in dairy products has been prosecuted after an agency worker suffered severe injuries when their fingers were caught in machinery.

Walsall Magistrates' Court heard that following the incident on 12 July 2016, an agency worker had to have their middle finger amputated below the second knuckle, lost half their index finger and had their third finger amputated to the first knuckle. The agency employee was working as a box maker on a machine known as a tray erector, at the company's Minsterley site in Shropshire, when the incident occurred.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the in-running nip on the tray erector was not properly guarded. The company had failed to guard dangerous parts of the machine to prevent access for more than seven years.

Müller UK & Ireland Group of Minsterley, Shrewsbury pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11(1) of the Provision of Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. The company was fined £66,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,024.20.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Andrew Johnson said: "This

preventable incident could have easily been avoided had the company properly assessed and applied effective control measures to minimise the risks from dangerous parts of the machinery.

“The dangers associated with in-running nips are well known, and a wealth of advice and guidance is freely available from HSE and other organisations.”

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