

CONSTRUCTION HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS



LEGISLATION & GUIDANCE

Revised HSE Safety Alert – Safe use of quick hitch devices on excavators

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) issued a revised safety alert, SIM 02/2007/01, Version 3.

This revised SIM aims to describe what a quick hitch is and discusses common failure modes in particular with semi-automatic hitches. It will address key issues that inspectors may wish to consider during inspection and gives guidance on instances where enforcement may be appropriate. Version 3 has been updated to include recent developments in both use and legal requirements.

A significant number of all accidents investigated on excavators are attributed to the bucket detaching from a quick hitch and injuring a ground worker. These are mostly fatal and major injuries. However, there may be many more dangerous occurrences that occur when a bucket detaches unintentionally from the hitch, but without injury because no one is underneath at the time that might not be reported and so the true number of incidents is unknown.

This safety alert, including HSE Inspectors' actions, thorough examinations and recommended enforcement actions can be viewed in full at:

hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sectors/construction/020701.htm

Lane rental schemes

Work is progressing at the Department for Transport (DfT) on drafting regulations that would allow local authorities to run lane rental schemes. The proposed regulations are to incentivise utilities and other companies to carry out road works during the less busy periods of the day to reduce their impact on the travelling public.

Consultation on the new regulations and Transport for London (TfL) proposals for a lane rental scheme in London will take place over the summer and, if approved, regulations would be in place by the end of the year, allowing the Mayor to apply to have the country's first lane rental scheme up and running in London in the first half of 2012.

Also refer to the associated article in this Newsletter entitled '[Development fund for technology to cut road works disruption](#)'.

New arrangements for reporting of injuries and incidents & Infoline closure

On 10 May 2011 the HSE confirmed that businesses will still be able to notify fatal and major incidents and injuries by phone following changes to reporting arrangements.

From 12 September 2011, all other reportable work-related injuries and incidents under RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995) will move to a predominantly online system, with a suite of seven forms available on HSE's website to make the statutory reporting process quick and easy.

Said Trevor Carlile, HSE's Director of Strategy; "More than half of reportable injuries are already notified to HSE through the website and this proportion has been increasing steadily over the past seven years. Taking advantage of the growing use of the internet allows HSE to be more efficient in the way it works. We do recognise, however, that people reporting a traumatic event still need that personal interaction so the notification of fatal and major incidents and injuries will still take place by phone."

In a move to improve efficiency further and deliver value for taxpayers, HSE's Infoline telephone service, which currently provides a

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basic information service to callers, will end on 30 September 2011.

Businesses and members of the public seeking information and official guidance on health and safety can use HSE's website; a huge knowledge bank where people can access and download information free of charge and use interactive web tools.

Road works permit schemes

Local authorities (LAs) are being urged by Regional and Local Transport Minister, Norman Baker, to consider the use of permit schemes that help to reduce the disruption caused by road works. Road works permit schemes give councils more power to coordinate road works and once a scheme is in place utility companies and local authorities must abide by strict conditions including time limits, coordination or the amount of road space to be left available to road users during the works.

Anyone who breaks the terms of their permit or works without a permit could be prosecuted and face a fine of up to £5,000.

The letter sent to councils last month also outlines plans to make the permit scheme application process less bureaucratic and costly by allowing councils to introduce schemes without needing to seek approval from central government.

The National Underground Assets Group (NUAG) has issued a response to the Minister's letter, with the main points being:

- ❑ NJUG continues offering assistance to LAs on workable permit schemes
- ❑ NJUG believes that permit schemes must focus on the busiest streets and the major works
- ❑ Government are going back on a promise to an independent one-year review of permit schemes
- ❑ LAs implementing their own permit schemes will create additional costs

NJUG = National Joint Utilities Group

RR877 - A commentary on routes to competence in the construction sector

The key questions of this research are whether current routes to competence, qualifications (both work-based and college-based), short courses, safety passport courses, competent person development, as well as on-the-job mentoring and general experience, are adequate for the sector, and whether our understanding of what makes a construction worker 'competent', in the deepest health and safety sense, remains sufficiently robust for current-day needs.

Competence is evidenced directly by competence-based qualifications or indirectly by a plethora of card and passport schemes. The research highlights other safety-critical industries that require 'job competence', enhanced health and safety awareness, and, critically, 'human factors'. It concludes that the industry's current understanding of 'competence' may warrant extension to develop an 'industry-specific' definition and broadening to encompass both situational awareness and the sustaining of appropriate behaviours.

This report and the work it describes were funded by the HSE. Its contents, including any opinions and/or conclusions expressed, are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect HSE policy.

The full report can be viewed/downloaded from: www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr877.pdf

NEWS

Last chance to book on the public APS Design Risk Management course

Callsafe Services Limited is running this public course in Lichfield on Wednesday & Thursday, 15 & 16 June 2011. There are no further public courses planned before September.

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This two-day course is designed to provide Designers and Design Risk Managers with the necessary knowledge and confidence in the performance of the task to ensure compliance with the designers' duties under CDM2007.

The course is highly interactive and includes presentations, notes, syndicate exercises, delegate discussions, and an examination to ensure learning outcomes. The course programme can be seen at:
www.callsafe-services.co.uk/training.asp.

For further details and to book onto this course, contact Gemma Esprey at:
gemma.esprey@callsafe-services.co.uk, or by telephone: 01889 577701.

If you cannot book on the June course but would like to be informed of future public courses or to discuss an in-house course, further details can be obtained as above.

BAFE launches new fire risk assessment scheme

A new scheme for third party certification of companies providing fire risk assessment services has been launched for consultation by the British Approvals for Fire Equipment (BAFE).

SP205, BAFE Scheme for Fire Risk Assessment, sets out requirements to be met by companies and other organisations seeking to provide fire risk assessment services.

SP 205 requires each scheme member, from a large company to a self-employed individual, to register one or more named persons, who will be responsible for the accuracy and quality assurance of every fire risk assessment completed. The professional competence of the named person(s) will be audited by a UKAS accredited third party certification body licensed to administer the BAFE scheme.

There will also be audits of the organisation's administrative and quality processes.

Auditing will be based on a combination of quality checks on completed fire risk assessments and periodic review of the individual's personal competence, says BAFE, using the guidelines being developed by the fire risk assessment competencies council.

Stephen Adams, BAFE general manager, added: "We expect a wide range of comments for what we believe will be an important step forward for the fire industry".

The draft SP205 may be downloaded and/or viewed from:
www.bafe.org.uk/uploads/DOC4DC0071603D56.pdf

The comment form can be downloaded from:
www.bafe.org.uk/news-detail.php?id=000000020

Development fund for technology to cut road works disruption

A joint £1 million fund to research and develop new technology to reduce the disruption caused by road works was announced today by the Transport Secretary, Philip Hammond and the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

The money will fund an 18-month project by the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) to examine innovative engineering techniques which could see utilities use temporary road surfacing methods and fast-setting replacement road surfaces. This would allow utility companies to carry out more work at quieter times and re-open roads during peak traffic periods to reduce delays and disruption.

Funding will be provided equally by the Department for Transport (DfT) and Transport for London (TfL).

Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond, said: "Everyone knows how frustrating the delays caused by road works can be, which is why we want utilities and local authorities to be able to make the most

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of the technology available to help keep disruption to a minimum.”

“This project will investigate how innovative engineering can provide greater flexibility and allow more road works to be carried out at times when the travelling public will be least inconvenienced. By using technology to its full effect, as well as making sure that local authorities across the country have the powers they need, I hope that we can see fewer needless jams caused by road works.”

NUAG London trial project now underway

The National Underground Assets Group (NUAG) has begun a trial to improve access to information on buried assets. The 12-month London trial of a web-based national asset record information sharing service is being delivered by NUAG NRS Limited as a pre-cursor to implementation across the country.



Information is key to the common understanding on where the pipes, cables and other equipment that provide services essential to our modern society are buried. This understanding is important both to ensure the safety of

workers who need to dig up the road to reach the assets, as well as the safety of the general public.

Improving information exchange will enable the work to be planned more efficiently, resulting in less disruption and inconvenience to road users and the community. The information interchange proposed by NUAG, whereby all parties can access reliable data, is therefore crucial to improving safety and reducing disruption.

Regional and Local Transport Minister Norman Baker said: “Everyone knows that

some street works are necessary to keep essential infrastructure functioning but it is vital that these works are well planned and coordinated so that disruption for the travelling public is kept to a minimum.”

“The NUAG trial in London is a great step towards making sure that there is accurate information about the location of existing pipes and wires in the street. This could make a real difference for everyone using our roads and pavements and I urge local authorities as well as utility companies to look seriously at how NUAG’s work could help them run more efficient and effective works programmes.”

Set up in 2005, the NUAG is a group of relevant stakeholders, including utilities and local authorities, established to support the Department for Transport (DfT) in achieving the relevant Traffic Management Act (TMA) targets, and to act as a point of focus and single voice for everyone involved with underground, and appropriate associated above ground assets. NUAG complements the existing arrangements between DfT and the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (HAUC).

Further information on the London Trial Project can be found at: www.nuag.co.uk/

PROSECUTIONS

Collapse of Law Society Building, Belfast - Fines

On 13 April 2011, JH Turkington & Sons Ltd and Ripley Developments Ltd were fined a total of £61,000 for health and safety breaches following the collapse of the Law Society Building in Victoria Street, Belfast on 10 March 2008.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) revealed that the incident occurred due to the collapse of a temporary supporting structure known as Falsework. It was estimated that approximately 150 tonnes of

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concrete, 25 tonnes of steel reinforcing bars and 4 tonnes of Falsework all came down in the collapse.

J H Turkington & Sons Ltd was the Principal Contractor, and was fined £50,000 after pleading guilty to breaches of Article 4(2)(a) and Article 5(1) of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 and Regulation 23(2) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.

Ripley Developments Ltd, the sub-contractor who was responsible for the erection of the cast in-situ concrete building, was fined £11,000 after pleading guilty to breaches of Article 4(2)(a) and Article 5(1) of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, Regulation 3(1)(a) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 and Regulation 3(1)(b) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000.

After the case, Ken Logan, Head of the HSENI's Construction Group said: "This incident caused injuries to six workers and could easily have resulted in a number of fatalities. The dangers of failing to manage falsework should be well known to the construction industry. Companies have a legal duty to ensure that falsework is properly designed and erected. This includes ensuring that a competent Temporary Works Co-ordinator is appointed and the process as set out in the British Standard BS 5975:2008 titled 'Code of practice for temporary works procedures ...' is strictly adhered to. Had this system of work been followed, this incident could have been prevented."

Further details of this case and other cases in Northern Ireland can be found at: www.secure.hseni.gov.uk/register/pros_guidelines.asp

Electrical contractor fined after employee paralysed by fall

The HSE have prosecuted Skanska Rashleigh Weatherfoil Ltd after an incident that happened on the 25 January 2007 at Manor Royal Industrial Park in Crawley.

Lewes Crown Court heard that the company had been subcontracted to design and build the mechanical and electrical systems in a number of new buildings.

A cable installer, who does not want to be named, was working in a scissor lift with two colleagues tying cables into overhead trays when they collapsed, knocking the man out of the lift and causing him to fall eight metres to the floor below.

The man suffered severe spinal injuries and is now paralysed from the waist down.

The HSE told the court that Skanska Rashleigh Weatherfoil Ltd had failed to ensure the safety of its employees while carrying out the installation of the cable tray systems.

Skanska Rashleigh Weatherfoil Ltd admitted breaching section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined a total of £120,000 with full costs of £81,927.

Further details of this case and other cases can be found at: <http://news.hse.gov.uk/category/prosecution/>

Developer prosecuted over unsafe site

A property developer, Prestige Homes Construction Company Ltd, has been prosecuted after being ordered to stop work three times over safety fears at a construction site in Greater Manchester.

The HSE first issued with a Prohibition Notice on 7 May 2008, following a routine

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inspection of the site of a new six-bedroom mansion on Stanhope Road in Bowden.

Inspectors discovered the site was unsafe, with open edges around the foundations increasing the risk of workers being injured in a fall. After the Prohibition Notice was issued, a follow-up visit found that scaffolding had been provided and met the required standards.

However, during another routine inspection nearly fifteen months later, on 28 July 2009, inspectors found large amounts of rubble around the site making access dangerous.



Inspectors found large amounts of rubble around the site making access dangerous

They immediately issued a second Prohibition Notice, ordering work to stop until the site had been made safe.

But when inspectors revisited the construction site on 13 August 2009, they discovered the scaffolding was in a dangerous condition. There were missing guardrails and toe boards, and gaps in the platforms. HSE issued a third Prohibition Notice and took the decision to prosecute as well.

Prestige Homes Construction Company Ltd was charged with breaching Regulation 6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 by failing to take sufficient action to prevent falls, and Regulation 27(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 by failing to keep the construction site in good order.

The company was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,792 after admitting the offences at Minshull Street's Manchester Crown Court on 6 May 2011.

Asbestos exposure at sheltered housing

A Nottinghamshire building firm, Abbott and Mason Building and Joinery Contractors Ltd, contaminated an elderly resident's possessions with asbestos during bathroom renovation work at sheltered housing in West Bridgford. The firm also left asbestos-containing materials outside the building in the open air, putting the public at risk.

The company was removing asbestos insulation board (AIB) which had been used to box in pipework behind the bath but many of the resident's possessions, including clothing and furniture, was contaminated with asbestos fibres and had to be destroyed.

The dangerous work was spotted by the warden at the complex, who stopped the activity immediately and took the resident, who had been sitting very close to the bathroom, to a safe place.

The HSE told Nottingham Magistrates' Court that the firm knew it was dealing with asbestos-containing material and though both partners had asbestos awareness training they failed to manage it appropriately, exposing employees; the resident; and members of the public to asbestos fibres.

Abbott and Mason Building and Joinery Contractors Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Regulations 7, 8, 11(1), 16 and 24(1) of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 and was fined a total of £20,000. The company was also ordered to pay full costs of £5,741.

Scaffolder balanced eight metres high without safety harness

On 9 May 2011 a scaffolder was fined for endangering himself and others after working on a four-storey scaffold with no harness.

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Hastings Magistrates' Court heard Gareth Roser was spotted by a passing HSE Inspector working without a harness at the building in East Parade, Hastings, on 14 October 2010.

The court was told that when the Inspector initially saw Mr Roser, who was contracting for Giant Scaffolding Ltd, he was approximately eight metres in the air, balancing on scaffolding tubes. However, it emerged that harnesses were available for the workers to use in their van.

Well-established industry guidance requires scaffolders to wear and use a fall arrest harness when more than four metres above ground without a safe platform to stand on and edge protection in place.

Mr Roser, a self-employed scaffolder was fined £750 and ordered to pay £643 in costs after admitting a breach of Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005.

The court was also told that Giant Scaffolding had repeatedly failed to reply to written questions put to them by the Inspector despite a number of warnings.

Giant Scaffolding Ltd pleaded guilty to a breach of Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and a breach of Section 20(2)(j) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. It was fined at total of £15,000 with costs of £5,000.

Former cinema collapses onto dual carriageway

A Liverpool demolition firm has been sentenced after poor work saw a disused cinema collapse onto a dual carriageway in Thornton Cleveleys.

Gaskells Demolition Services Ltd was prosecuted by the HSE after part of the Orion building fell onto the A587 during rush hour on Thursday 17 June 2010.

Blackpool Magistrates' Court heard that Gaskells was hired to demolish the building

on Crescent West ahead of a supermarket being built on the site. During the work, part of the building and scaffolding collapsed, blocking the two northbound lanes of the dual carriageway and the entire width of Runnymede Avenue for several hours.



The collapsed cinema in Thornton Cleveleys

No one was injured in the collapse but one pedestrian suffered a near-miss and a car was also damaged.

The HSE investigation found that, although the company had taken some precautions, it had failed to set up safe arrangements for the demolition such as an exclusion zone around the building. It also failed to apply to the council for temporary road closures while the work took place.

The scaffolding put up along the front of the building was to allow workers to access it, rather than to support it.

Gaskells Demolition Services Ltd admitted breaching Regulation 29(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. The company was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £3,000 in prosecution costs on 11 May 2011.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Anthony Polec said: "The risk of buildings unexpectedly collapsing is well known in the demolition industry but Gaskells failed to take adequate action to prevent lives being put in danger."

"The company should have put suitable measures in place to protect the public, such as applying to close the roads while the demolition work took place and setting up an exclusion zone to keep the public away."

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"It could also have erected facade retention scaffolding that could support the building, rather than relying on employees to keep a lookout for passers-by. This was entirely inappropriate given the demolition work was taking place next to a busy dual carriageway on a weekday morning. It's only luck that no one was seriously injured."

Principal contractor fined after failing to meet health and safety requirements

A principal contractor has been fined was fined on 12 May 2011 after a loading platform at a boat building company, Bembridge Marine Ltd, was inadequately constructed in 2005.

On 18 September 2006, an employee of Bembridge Marine Ltd was attempting to push a boat on to the purpose-built loading platform. As he was doing so, a panel in the floor of the platform moved and opened a gap, causing him to fall nearly 3.5 metres and leaving him with severe head injuries. The court heard that the lack of appropriate fixings for the floor panels was a serious failing.

The HSE investigation found that the number of clips used to hold the floor panels in place was fewer than that recommended by British Standards on walkways and stair treads, and that there was no other means of preventing the panels from moving sideways.

The principal contractor, Malcolm Ely, accepted only that he had not ensured that handrails were fitted to the platform giving rise to a serious risk of falling from its edge to those using it and he was sentenced accordingly.

Mr Ely pleaded guilty to breaching section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, at Portsmouth Crown Court. He was fined £2,250 and ordered to pay costs of £1,000.

After the hearing HSE Inspector Tracey Cartwright said: "This incident has left

Mr Cleightonhills with life-changing injuries."

"As the design and build contractor for this project Mr Ely should have ensured effective co-ordination and communication by all those involved in this project. The judge was correct when he said Mr Ely was **not competent to provide a design and build service** to Bembridge Marine, his incompetence contributed to the sorry series of events which led to the catastrophic injuries of Mr Cleightonhills."

"This should be a lesson to all those acting as principal contractors to be aware of their serious responsibilities to ensure the safety of those affected by the work they are responsible for."

Companies fined for unsafe excavation work

A Kent based property company and its groundwork subcontractor have been prosecuted for unsafe excavation work.

Churchill Properties (Southern) Limited was prosecuted by the HSE for failing to plan, manage and monitor the excavation work being carried out on its construction site. The subcontractor, Moseley Green Services Limited, was also prosecuted for failing to take all practicable steps to ensure that the excavation work did not put workers in danger from the excavation collapsing.

Staines Magistrates' Court heard an HSE Inspector visited Leys Road Oxshott, in Surrey on 19 May 2010 and found construction work underway to the retaining basement walls of two new houses. Churchill Properties was commissioned as the principal contractor for the site; Moseley Green Services was subcontracted to build the foundations.

The HSE Inspector found there was a significant risk of the excavation collapsing, or materials from the excavation walls falling and injuring workers. A Prohibition Notice was served by the Inspector to stop work on the site. An Improvement Notice was served

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a week later to ensure that future construction work was adequately planned, managed and monitored.

The court heard Churchill Properties has had previous enforcement action taken against it on other safety matters due to failings on its behalf at another site.

Churchill Properties (Southern) Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 22(1)(a) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. The company was fined £2,800 and ordered to pay costs of £2,917.

Moseley Green Services Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 31 of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. The company was fined £2,800 and ordered to pay costs of £2,917.

'Quick Hitch' failure led to construction death

Fines totalling £18,700 were handed down on 19 May 2011 after a foreman died when an excavator bucket filled with concrete fell on him at a London construction site.

Euro Earthworks Ltd general foreman, Gerry Fox, was crushed by an excavator bucket when it fell from the arm of the 12 tonne excavator being driven by a colleague.

The HSE prosecuted Hydro Plant Ltd, the plant hire company which had provided the excavator, and Michael Cunningham, the excavator operator, for safety breaches after the August 2007 incident. Euro Earthworks Ltd, the principal contractor and Mr Cunningham's employer, also faces charges but has entered administration and did not appear at court.

City of London Magistrates' Court heard that on 28 August 2007, Mr Cunningham failed to manually insert a pin into the 'quick hitch' which was necessary to lock the bucket in place.

The court heard Hydro Plant Ltd did not have a suitable regime of inspection for the plant

it hired out to ensure safety conditions were maintained. It also supplied the equipment without adequate safety warning signs, written information and instructions or CE marking.

Euro Earthworks Ltd failed to adequately plan, manage and monitor the construction work, while Hydro Plant Ltd neglected to ensure the quick hitch and all attachments supplied with the excavator were maintained in an efficient state, working order and in good repair.

Hydro Plant Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £7,000 ordered to pay costs of £10,000.

Michael Denis Cunningham, of Latimer Road, Eastbourne pleaded guilty to breaching Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. He was fined £700 and ordered to pay costs of £1,000.

Euro Earthworks Ltd is charged with breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. Euro Earthworks Ltd will be tried in its absence at the City of London Magistrates' Court on 7 July 2011.

Temporary works failure causes death in Belgravia

A foreign construction worker was buried alive while working on a property in London's Belgravia. Arlindo Visentin, from Brazil, was helping three other workers build a basement at the private property when he was crushed by a wall of gravel and clay weighing between three and five tonnes that collapsed.

On 24 May 2011 contractor Nadeem Aftab, Mr Visentin's employer, was fined in connection with the tragic incident that happened during the construction of a basement at a house in Wilton Row, Westminster. The HSE prosecuted Mr Aftab, who pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act

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1974. He was fined £100,000 and ordered to pay costs of £61,590.

The Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey) heard that on 13 June 2007 Mr Visentin was working in the basement area when the collapse took place, completely burying him with clay and gravel, causing fatal crush injuries.

The HSE investigation found the temporary works required to support the earth during the underpinning operation were not adequately planned. The earth that remained following the underpinning of the walls was not properly supported, and at the time of the incident no measures were in place to prevent falls into the excavation.

Mr Aftab failed to make sure the workers on site were trained, qualified and competent to carry out underpinning.

Following the hearing, HSE Inspector, Lisa Chappell said: "Mr Visentin spoke very little English and did not share a common language with any of the other workers or with Mr Aftab. This incident highlights the need to have effective worker consultation and communication with all employees to ensure they understand the control measures that should be in place to prevent harm."

"Basement conversions involving underpinning are significant engineering projects and should be planned and managed by competent people. As a part of this, a competent temporary works engineer should design an appropriate sequence of works, and the work should be actively managed by a person who had the necessary knowledge, training and experience to ensure it is carried out safely."

Property firm fined after workers put at falls risk

A Manchester property company has appeared in court on 27 May 2011 after two workers were spotted on the sixth floor of a

city apartment block without proper equipment to prevent them falling.



The two workers on the Options Properties Ltd site

Options Properties Ltd was prosecuted by the HSE after the men were found to be working 65 feet up next to a sheer drop at the Madison Apartments in Trafford on 14 May 2009.

Trafford Magistrates' Court heard the men worked for a company called P&R Structural Glazing Ltd, hired by Options Properties to fit glass balconies to the properties in the newly-built apartments.

The men had originally been working on scaffolding, but this was removed by Options Properties, leaving them with just a harness attached to a guardrail to stop them falling to the ground below.

The inspector who visited the site was so concerned that he immediately issued Prohibition Notices on both companies, ordering them to stop work immediately.

Options Properties Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 by failing to ensure that the work was properly planned and supervised and carried out in a safe manner. They were fined £18,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,115.

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Contact details of organisations mentioned in this and other Newsletters

Ai Solutions Ltd
PO Box 5025, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1ZN
Tel: 01525-850080
www.aisolutions.co.uk

Association for Project Safety (APS)
12 Stanhope Place, Edinburgh EH12 5HH
Tel: 0845-6121-290
www.associationforprojectsafety.co.uk

British Approvals for Fire Equipment (BAFE)
Bridges 2, The Fire Service College, London Road
Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 0RH
Tel: 0844-335-0897
Email: info@bafefire.org.uk
www.fiaf.co.uk

British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)
Tel: 01332-298101

British Safety Council (BSC)
70 Chancellors Road, London W6 9RS
Tel: 020-8741-1231
Email: mail@britsafe.org
www.britsafe.org/

BSI Customer Services
BSI Standards
389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL
Tel: 020-8996-9001
<http://shop.bsigroup.com>

Container Handling Equipment Manufacturers Association (CHEM)
David Buxton, Honorary Technical Secretary
3 Berry Close, Farringdon, Oxfordshire. SN7 7FL
Tel: 01367 244992
Email: enquiries@chem.uk.com
<http://chem.uk.com/>

CITB ConstructionSkills
www.cskills.org

Construction Industry Publications
c/o BTB Mailflight Ltd
2B Viking Industrial Estate, Hudson Road, Bedford
MK41 0QB
Tel: 0870-078-4400
Email: sales@cip-books.com
www.cip-books.com

Construction Plant Hire Association
27/28 Newbury Street, Barbican, London EC1A 7HU
Tel: 020-7796-3366
www.cpa.uk.net

Department for Communities and Local Government
PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7NB
Tel: 0870-839-7099
Email: odpm@twoten.press.net

Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF)
Tel: 020-7222-7777

Electrical Contractors Association
Tel: 020-7313-4800

F-Gas Support
P O Box 481, Salford, M50 3UD
Tel: 0161 874 3663
www.defra.gov.uk/fgas
Email: fgas-support@enviros.com

FPA Publications Department
Tel: 020-8207 2345

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
Infoline: 0845-345-0055
www.hse.gov.uk

Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI)
www.hseni.gov.uk

info4fire.com
www.info4fire.com

International Institute of Risk and Safety Management (IIRSM)
Suite 7a, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8JA
Tel: 020-8741-9100
Email: info@iirsm.org
www.iirsm.org

Keeleys Solicitors
28 Dam Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 6AA
Tel: 01543-420000

National Underground Assets Group (NUAG)
www.nuag.co.uk/

Office of Public Sector Information
www.opsi.gov.uk

Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register (OSHCR)
www.oshcr.org

The Fibre Cement Manufacturers Association
Ghyll House, Cock Road, Cotton, Stowmarket
IP14 4QH
Tel: 01449-781577

The Loss Prevention Council
Tel: 020-8207-2345

The Stationery Office Ltd (TSO)
Tel: 0870 600 5522
www.tsoshop.co.uk

TUC Publications
Tel: 020-7467-1294

National Access and Scaffolding Confederation (NASC)
Tel: 020-7397-8120
www.nasc.org.uk