

Members Briefing – Regulatory Services, Public Protection

Communication from Environmental Health (Commercial Team)

Monmouthshire County Council in successful prosecution of Mandarin Stone following an accident resulting in an employee losing the sight in one eye.

20 November 2015 at Newport Magistrates Court

Mandarin Slate Ltd (trading as Mandarin Stone) of Wonastow Industrial Estate, Monmouth were today ordered to pay the maximum fine of £20,000 plus full costs of £2860, after pleading guilty to an offence under Section 2(1) of the Health And Safety At Work etc. Act 1974.

In February this year, an employee lost the sight in one eye when a nail he attempted to drive into a packing crate, sprang out and hit him in the eye. Mandarin Stone had failed to provide eye protection to its employees, which is considered a simple and effective control measure.

Following an accident investigation by Specialist Environmental Health Officers Alun Thomas and Kristian Williams, it was found that Mandarin Stone had failed to assess the risks associated with packing crates of stone product for onward distribution.

Improvement Notices were served following the investigation and Mandarin Stone have subsequently implemented a safe system of work for this activity, including the provision of protective eye wear.

The Environmental Health Commercial Team remains committed to the protection of public and employee health & safety throughout Monmouthshire's many businesses, using a range of proactive and reactive interventions to secure compliance – namely advice, education and through proportionate enforcement action.

Notes

1. For further information please contact Mr Alun Thomas or Mr Kristian Williams (Specialist Environmental Health Officers) on 01291 635711.
2. Prosecuting solicitor: Mr Ioan Gealy.
3. Monmouthshire County Council (Environmental Health) represents the Enforcing Authority for Mandarin Stone and similar businesses in Monmouthshire, as this relates to the provisions of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and all Regulations made thereunder.