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Fall costs Aston Villa £3,000

Aston Villa Football Club has been fined £1,350 plus £1,610 costs after a workman fell through a roof at its training ground. The 34-year-old fell around three metres breaking the bones in his heel during demolition of an old building at the Bodymoor Heath site in June 2007. He was off work for more than six months. The club was fined after admitting breaching Working At Height Regulations.

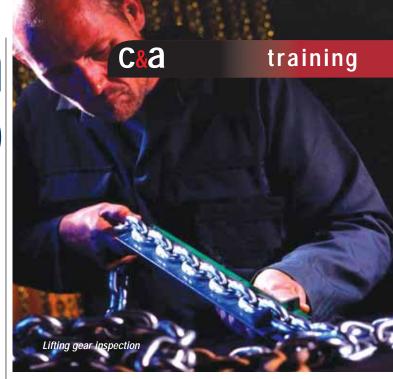
The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said the club and the contractor he was working for, Mechanical Cleaning Services of Aston, Birmingham failed to inform workers of the dangers of working at height. The contractor and its managing director Damon Roe were each fined £1,000 plus £1,610 costs.

An internal ladder used for getting to the roof of the building was out of use so Roe decided to use a

ladder against the front of the building to access the roof's plant room, but he and the football club failed to inform workers of the risk of falling through the fragile rooflights. HSE inspector Carol Southerd said: "If the internal ladder had been used this incident would not have happened. There was clear failure to warn the victim of the dangerous condition of the roof or to provide safe access to the tank."







LEA opens up its overhead crane courses

The Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEA) has launched a new scheme to offer universal access to its training courses on the test, examination and maintenance of overhead lifting equipment. The LEEA's individual trainee programme is open to anyone interested in pursuing a career in this field, regardless of whether they are currently employed by an LEEA member company.

The LEEA runs a wide range of rigorous and highly respected training programmes that include an online distance learning course that prepares students for the association's diploma qualification for engineers responsible for the test and examination of overhead lifting equipment.

Launching the new scheme, Geoff Holden, chief executive of the LEEA, said: "The shortfall in engineers properly qualified to work on overhead lifting equipment is one of the most pressing challenges faced by our members. In recent years we have invested significantly in our training facilities and courses and the new individual trainee programme will make these accessible to any aspiring lifting equipment engineer."

The CMPE has chosen Commercial & Professional Qualifications (CPQ) as its preferred partner in the provision of NVQ's to support a new Gold card scheme. CPQ has access to Train to Gain funding and is Matrix, Construction Awards Alliance, City & Guilds, CPCS and National Plant Operators Registration Scheme (NPORS) accredited.

The CMPE Certificate of Competence (CoC) for plant operatives has been available to CMPE members some time and there are currently more than 20,000 card holders. In response to requests members, the CMPE has strengthened and enhanced the existing CoC scheme and introduced the Gold Competency Card. Now, if a CMPE CoC holder or future applicant holds an NVQ – Level 2 in Plant Operations, the CMPE will be able to issue the operator with a Gold Card, in addition to his existing certification.

Lavendon seeks apprentices

Lavendon UK is adding to its apprentice programme and is looking for candidates at both its EPL Skylift and Nationwide Platforms divisions. Locations include:

EPL Skylift - Oldbury, Manchester & St Albans.

Nationwide Platforms – Birmingham North, Leeds West, Leicester, Milton Keynes, Bristol, Southampton, Durham, Manchester and Glasgow.

If you know a young person who would make a good apprentice contact <code>Jo.campbell@lavendongroup.co.uk</code>