

FORK ACCESS COSTS £406,000

UK freight forwarder Reliable Shipping of Colchester has been fined £400,000 plus costs of £6,336, after an employee broke his back after falling from a forklift. The man was one of two employees loading a shipping container at the company's premises in September 2019.

To reach the highest pallets inside the container, the injured man had been lifted on the forks to stack boxes on top of an already wrapped pallet. He slipped and fell less than a metre, landing on the corner of a pallet, causing multiple spinal fractures.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found that Reliable Shipping had no safe system of work for loading and unloading the containers and did not have appropriate work at height equipment. Although the company had a risk assessment for working at height, it was not suitable or sufficient and did not assess the working environment or correct control measures.

The company was originally fined £500,000 but was reduced to £400,000 on appeal. In sentencing, the judge said: "Even those who aren't familiar with health and safety would know that this was an accident waiting to happen, and it was only good fortune that the person was not paralysed or killed."

HSE Inspector Carla Barron added: "Those in control of work have a responsibility to undertake suitable and sufficient risk assessments, devise safe methods of working and provide the necessary equipment, information, instruction and training to their workers. This incident could so easily have been avoided."



VITA TRAINING ACADEMY ADDS RIGGING COURSE

The Vita Industrial Training Academy is to offer qualified rigging training courses for crane operators in North America. The course will be offered online and in person at its Denver and Anchorage, Alaska, facilities.

The rigger qualification program is geared towards industries such as construction, steel erection, utilities, petrochemicals and specialty rigging companies. The classes walk students through a variety of techniques utilising shackles, chains, slings, anchors, spreader bars and more. They will also learn correct hand signals, voice activated and audible signals, as well as crane operations. The course also covers fundamentals of rigging, load handling, and working with various environmental factors. Individuals must pass both written and practical exams.

THE NAVIGATOR

Vita also attended Bauma with its Vita Load Navigator (VLN) device that uses high speed propellers to manipulate a load without the need for a guy rope/tag line. Its training course include the Navigator in addition to traditional methods.



PRISON SENTENCE FOR COMPANY DIRECTOR

UK roofing company Davis Industrial Roofing was fined £20,000 plus costs of £12,557 following a fatality on one of its job sites, while its sole director Melvyn Davis received an eight week prison sentence - suspended for 12 months - and 15 days of rehabilitation activity.

The Wakefield based company had employed Jonathan May, 39, as a subcontractor in December 2016 to help replace 300 storm damaged skylights on a warehouse roof at F&G Commercials in Barnsley. The investigation found that Davis Industrial Roofing had failed to provide an appropriate risk assessment, method statement, or suitable and sufficient fall protection measures for the roof work to be carried out safely.

Melvyn Davis, who had drawn up the risk assessment and method statement visited the site regularly to monitor progress but failed to provide suitable fall protection measures and consented to the use of an unsafe system of work. This constituted a personal neglect for safety during the roof work. As a result, May, a father of two, fell through a skylight to the ground 12 metres below, and as a result lost his life just six days before Christmas Day.

WHO TRAINED HIM THEN?

Spotted in Florida after Hurricane Ian, the recovery of a 10 tonne boat that was dumped on dry land by the severe storm. The 60 tonne crane was located on a barge which looked as if it might tip the crane into the canal. All worked out well in the end - but only just.

