



Occupational Health & Safety Authority

Media Release

More than Lm 4,000 in Fines for Breaching Occupational Health and Safety Legislation

20.07.05

A **Lm1000 fine and six months imprisonment** suspended for a year were given to two persons who due carelessness and in breach of regulations, caused serious injuries to three workers. The two owners of the establishment where the accident took place were also found guilty of not ensuring the health and safety at the workplace of the workers and third parties at all times, and of not appointing a competent person to certify the lift installed at the said premises.

In two separate cases, directors of two construction companies were fined **Lm 1000 and Lm 800** respectively for failing to ensure the occupational health and safety (OHS) of all who could have been affected by the work being carried out for them. The responsible persons were also found guilty of failing to carry out a risk assessment of all work activities taking place, to appoint a person responsible for OHS and a first aider. The two companies also failed to provide a first aid box and easy access to first aid for the workers. Moreover, they did not provide training and information to the workers and / or their representatives, and did not put up safety signs where required. One of the companies also failed to provide both personal protective equipment where the risks could not be avoided and appropriate sanitary equipment.

Directors of another company were found guilty of leaving exposed corrugated sheets containing asbestos leaning against a wall in a public area accessible to the general public. Moreover, they failed to abide by the general principles of the prevention of risks and hazards, and to provide the necessary information, training and supervision. Finally, they were also found guilty of failing to ensure that the corrugate sheets were placed in adequate containers or covered by similar material. The fine meted out by the court amounted to **Lm 400**.

In other different cases, five companies were fined a total of **Lm 825** amongst them by the Criminal Court of Malta for failing to send the appropriate lift certificate to the OHSA every six months as stipulated in the legislation.

The Court was presided over by Magistrate Dr A.J. Vella while the prosecution was led by Mr David Saliba on behalf of OHSA.