



Occupational Health & Safety Authority

Media Release

Lm 2,500 in Fines for Breaching Occupational Health and Safety Legislation

09.01.06

Directors of a company were fined **Lm 600** by Magistrate Dr C. Scerri Herrera at the Gozo Courts for allowing work involving removal of objects containing asbestos in a place they knew to be unfit for work. They were also found guilty of not ensuring that asbestos dust or fibres were carried in labelled polythene bags. Moreover, they failed to obey orders issued to them by OHS officers and did not provide workers with the necessary information, training and supervision.

In three separate cases in Malta, directors of construction companies were fined a total of **Lm 900** for failing to ensure the occupational health and safety (OHS) of all those persons who might have been affected by the work being carried out, so much so that in one case a worker was severely injured.

The persons concerned were also found guilty of failing to carry out a risk assessment of all work activities taking place and a first aider. They also failed to provide a first aid box, easy access to first aid and adequate sanitary facilities for the workers. Moreover, they did not provide training and information to the workers and / or their representatives. They were also found guilty of failing to both provide personal protective equipment where the risks could not be avoided and put up safety signs where required.

A Government employee, in his capacity as an Acting Director General, was fined **Lm 200** for failing to provide the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) with a risk assessment as required. He also failed to ensure the occupational health and safety of all persons that could be affected by the work being carried out at a particular workplace.

A 27-year old man was fined **Lm 100** for failing to send a notification to the OHSA regarding construction works being carried out for him, which works were envisaged to take longer than 30 days and involved at

least 20 workers, or the work was to take longer than 500 working days. He was also found guilty of failing to appoint a project and a design supervisor.

Apart from a general lack of occupational health and safety, directors of another company failed to have a tower crane examined and certified by a competent person as required by law and also failed to obey orders issued by an OHS officer. They were found guilty as charged and fined **Lm 200**.

In another three separate cases, three persons were fined a total sum of **Lm 500** amongst them by the Criminal Court of Malta for failing to have a lift installed at their premises certified by a competent person and did not send such certificate to the OHSA every six months as required by law.

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