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All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

The warehouse roof which Sweet fell through

Fatality costs £270k+

UK transportation and logistics company Aramex has been fined £250,000 and ordered to pay costs of £20,000 after Michael Sweet, 48, fell to his death while carrying out maintenance work to the company's warehouse roof in Wythenshawe back in 2011. Sweet's employer and roofing contractor Gary Edwards also received a four-month suspended prison sentence.

Sweet was clearing out the guttering of the warehouse roof when he fell through a clear plastic panel onto the concrete floor below. Both Aramex and Edwards were prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive after an investigation revealed that a risk assessment had not been carried out and that no safety measures had been put in place. It also found that Aramex had ignored its own health and safety guidelines by failing to supervise the work or to assess how it would be carried out, despite knowing the roof was fragile.

HSE inspector Ian Betley said: "Sweet sadly lost his life because neither Aramex nor Edwards put enough thought into his safety. Edwards had carried out work at the warehouse on several previous occasions and so knew the roof could be dangerous, but he failed to take any action to keep Sweet safe. Aramex was also aware of the risks but simply left the two men to it. If Aramex and Edwards had taken their responsibilities seriously then Sweet's life could have been saved."

Scaffold firm fined for collapse

The incident captured by a CCTV camera



UK's Desborough Scaffolding was fined £16,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,678 following the collapse of a scaffold tower at the outdoor Willow Place shopping centre in Corby in 2012.

The tower collapsed after the debris netting, which had been fitted directly to the tower, acted as a sail during high winds. The HSE investigation found the scaffold had not been erected in a way to ensure it would remain stable, and had not been designed by a competent person to ensure it had adequate strength and rigidity for its specific purpose and environment. Fortunately no one was injured in the incident which was captured by the shopping centre's CCTV cameras.

HSE inspector Sam Russell said: "It was sheer luck that no one was seriously injured or killed as a result of this totally preventable incident. Scaffolding erected to an approved design by competent persons should be able to withstand high wind loads without failing. This case highlights the requirement of following prescribed industry designs and manufacturers' instructions. The company's failure to do so put innocent workers and members of the public at significant risk."



If passed the compliance date will be extended until November 2017

OSHA moves on crane operator certification extension

The USA's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has finally issued a proposed rule for the extension to its compliance/enforcement date for crane operator certification requirements by three years. The proposal will also extend the existing phase-in requirement which required all operators to meet one of four qualification/certification requirements by November 10th of this year.

The rule for the extension has been expected since May last year when a number of industry parties requested OSHA to take into consideration concerns over the qualification/certification requirements and capacity bands within the original standard. Other issues addressed include

whether or not certification is the only component of qualification, or if an employer must make additional determinations to achieve qualification. If passed, the proposed rule will extend the compliance date until November 2017 following a 30 day comment period which ended on 12th March.

Who trained him then?

This man was spotted combining his 19ft narrow aisle slab scissor lift with an extendable ladder in order to reach the roof of the building. Oblivious to the evident dangers he even takes his hand off the ladder to pose for the camera.

