

News Release

30 October 2009

COMPANY FINED FOLLOWING DEATH OF EMPLOYEE

On 29th October 2009, John Graham (Dromore) Ltd was fined a total of £65,000 after pleading guilty at Belfast Crown Court to two breaches of health and safety legislation. The case against the company was brought by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI).

The case relates to an incident that occurred on 27th February 2008 at the premises of the former Ormeau Bakery, Ormeau Road, Belfast. Gerard Morgan, a 53 year-old labourer employed by John Graham (Dromore) Ltd died after a telehandler reversed over him.

A subsequent investigation by HSENI revealed that John Graham (Dromore) Ltd did not ensure that the telehandler driver had an adequate field of vision at the rear of the machine to ensure the safety of pedestrians in this area. A visibility aid had previously been fitted at the rear of the machine but this was inoperational at the time of the incident.

Mr Louis Burns, Head of HSENI's Major Investigation Team said **“Companies need to ensure that operators of mobile equipment should be able to see anyone who is put at risk when any control is operated, including driving in reverse. Therefore mirrors or more sophisticated visual sensing facilities may be required at the rear of mobile equipment such as telehandlers. In addition companies must ensure that a safe system of work is put into operation and consistently maintained”**.

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For further information please contact David Beck at HSENI

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Notes to Editors:

1. HSENI (The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland) is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body, sponsored by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.
2. HSENI, the regional health and safety authority, is the lead body responsible for the promotion and enforcement of health and safety at work standards in Northern Ireland.