



Wilkins Safety Group

Monday, 7th April 2014

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Welcome to our latest Update E-Newsletter

As ever, please feel free to share this with friends and colleagues. You will also find PDF versions of all our other newsletters on our website: www.wilkinssafety.co.uk with lots more useful information and a wealth of leaflets covering Health and Safety topics.

What do you know about Corporate Responsibility?

Corporate responsibility covers a wide range of issues, including the effects that an organisation's business has on the environment, human rights and third world poverty. Health and safety in the workplace is an important corporate responsibility issue.

Corporate responsibility has various definitions. However, broadly speaking it covers the ways in which organisations manage their core business to add social, environmental and economic value in order to produce a positive, sustainable impact for both society and for the business itself. Terms such as 'corporate social responsibility', 'socially responsible business', and 'corporate citizenship' all refer to this concept.

HSE's mission is to ensure that the risks to health and safety of workers are properly controlled. In terms of corporate responsibility, they are working to encourage organisations to:

- improve management systems to reduce injuries and ill health;
- demonstrate the importance of health and safety issues at board level;
- Report publicly on health and safety issues within their organisation, including their performance against targets.

At **The Wilkins Safety Group** we believe that effective management of health and safety:

- is vital to employee well-being;
- has a role to play in enhancing the reputation of businesses and helping them achieve high-performance teams;
- Is financially beneficial to business.

We all have a corporate responsibility.

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Developer in court for breaking asbestos safety code.....

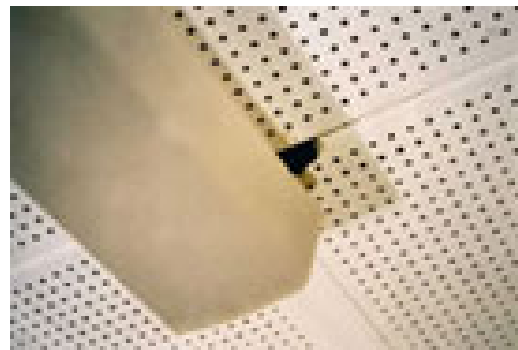
A Bristol property developer has been fined after it exposed employees to asbestos while working on a former Marks and Spencer shop building.

At least three employees of **Da Vinci Developments Limited** are known to have been exposed to potentially deadly asbestos fibres while working on the former M&S building on **Queen Street, Bridgwater**, between 17 September and 24 October 2012.

Taunton Magistrates' Court heard today (31 March) that Da Vinci Developments Limited failed to plan for the potential presence of asbestos insulation board (AIB) before developing the property.



Pieces of
AIB



Perforated AIB
Damaged by light

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) was alerted when they were notified by a non-licensed asbestos removal company, which had been asked to quote for the removal works. The firm was aware any such work had to be carried out by a licensed asbestos removal contractor.

An investigation by HSE found Da Vinci Developments Limited **did not carry out a statutory survey to check for the presence of asbestos materials prior to starting the work**. Instead, for several weeks, workers were demolishing walls and ceilings in the building, breaking up the asbestos insulation board.

Employees were exposed to large amounts of airborne asbestos fibres, which spread through the inside and outside of the building during the work. The AIB removal should have been undertaken by a licensed contractor taking suitable control measures to prevent exposure and spread of the asbestos fibres.

Da Vinci Developments Limited of Archfield Road, Cotham, Bristol, pleaded guilty to two breaches of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 and were fined £9,800 and ordered to pay £796 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector James Lucas said:

"It is very important that employers take appropriate measures before work starts in order to identify the potential for asbestos to be present when undertaking work. Appropriate measures can then be taken to ensure workers are not exposed and asbestos is not spread."

“Workers who have been exposed to asbestos could also have posed a health risk to others in the long term, even their families and loved ones, by taking home contaminated clothing.

“Asbestos is the single greatest cause of work-related deaths in the UK. Building owners and contractors have a duty to ensure they protect their workers from risk of exposure. Da Vinci Developments Limited neglected their duty by failing to plan for the dangers of this hidden killer.”

Information and advice about working safely with asbestos can be found on the **Wilkins Safety Group** website at http://www.wilkinssafety.co.uk/advice/our_leaflets.html

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If you think this couldn't happen to you, think again.

This film will only take up 14 minutes of your life and at the end of it - you will still have the rest of your life. Who could believe such a simple mistake could mean the end of another's?

This film was made to share with other professionals, so they could be warned and learn that there is no such thing as 'no risk' just because you do it every day. Please take 14 minutes to see just how easy it is to make a fatal mistake in what should have been an everyday process; you won't regret it. It is a lesson we all need to take on board.



Kate's Story - A Safety Video



If you have any queries on any health and safety matter, please contact Jon Wilkins on [01458 253682](tel:01458253682) or by email on jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk



Your Business is
Safer in Our Hands