

Learning Bulletin – Construction Fatality – Leadec Limited – Non TW

What Happened?

In June of 2017 an employee of a specialist industrial service company was fatally injured whilst cleaning waste-water pipes. The IP was using high-pressure jetting equipment to clean paint residue from pipes in a paint shop at a car manufacturing site when during the process the individual was struck by the end of the flexi-lance, causing a fatal injury.



Why did it really happen?

The investigation by the HSE found that the company recognised the risks of operating high-pressure water jetting equipment, but they had failed to put in place appropriate measures to mitigate the risk. They had not implemented or enforced the use of various control measures such as a pressure regulator or an anti-ejection device, which were missing at the time of the incident and, training and supervision were also not up to standard.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the HASAWA 1974 and was fined £2,000,00 and ordered to pay £30,000 in costs.

What can I do differently?

- Always ensure the hazards associated with each task have been identified and the controls in place are communicated with all those involved
- Only operate equipment if you are fully trained and competent
- Ensure that equipment is maintained, inspected and suitable for the task
- Ensure you fully understand the Safe System of Work before proceeding
- **Zero compromise** – If you are unsure that the method is the safest way to complete the task, ask your supervisor and challenge