

CASE STUDY: ANOTHER FIRM SENTENCED FOR CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER



A building company and its owner have been sentenced in February after pleading guilty in court following an incident in 2011 where a man died as a result of falling through a roof.

On 25 October 2011 emergency services were called to West Cumberland Farmers LTD in Ulverston following a report that a man had fallen through a roof. The man was a 42-year-old employee of Peter Mawson Ltd, a building firm. While working on the roof he had fallen through the skylight from a height of approximately 7.6 meters onto a concrete floor. He was taken to a nearby hospital but died shortly after.

The owner of the company pleaded guilty to a breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act (HASAWA) and was sentenced to eight months in prison (suspended for two years) and 200 hours unpaid work.

The company pleaded guilty to 'corporate manslaughter' and a breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act (HASAWA) for their failure to ensure the safety of the worker. The firm was fined £200,000 for the corporate manslaughter offence, and £20,000 for the breach of HASAWA.

In addition the court imposed a publicity order requiring the building firm to advertise what happened on the company's website for a set period of time and to take out a half-page spread in the local newspaper.