

CASE STUDY: ICE CREAM FIRM IN COURT WHEN WORKER LOSES FINGER



An ice cream manufacturer has been fined for safety failings after an employee's finger was cut off by a fruit feeder machine.

Tattenhall Dairy Products Ltd, which produces Cheshire Farm Ice Cream, was prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) following the incident at Drumlan Hall Farm in August 2013.

Chester Magistrates' Court heard the 60-year-old employee, from Tattenhall had been asked to clean the fruit feeder so it was ready for the next batch of ice cream. She assumed the machine was switched off and tried to remove pieces of cookies at the back with her left index finger when it became caught by the rotating blades. Her finger was cut off to below the second knuckle.

The court was told employees had needed to clean the machine up to three times every day. They did this by removing the chute which fed in the fruit, but this meant dangerous moving parts became exposed.

The HSE investigation found employees had been told to switch off the machine when they cleaned it, but no other measures were put in place to make sure they were not put in danger. This meant there was a high risk of them being injured if they simply forgot to check, due to human error.

The company has since installed an interlocking device on the machine, which means power is automatically cut when the chute is removed.

Tattenhall Dairy Products Ltd, of Newton Lane in Tattenhall, was fined £7,500 and ordered to pay £11,287.22 in prosecution costs after pleading guilty to single breaches of the Provision and Use of Equipment Regulations 1998 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.