

# £660,000 WORKING-AT- HEIGHT VIOLATION

## Aircraft Seat Manufacturer Fined £660K After Worker Fell Through Roof

An aircraft seat manufacturer was fined **£660,000** and ordered to pay **£13,472** after an employee fell through a roof in South Wales. The incident occurred on 19th May 2020 while carrying out work to vacate the premises. An employee was dismantling and removing a spraying booth when he fell more than 2.1 metres through its roof. The employee suffered severe injuries, including broken ribs and collarbone and a fractured skull.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had failed in two areas. Specifically, inadequate planning of the work at height caused unsuitable equipment to be used. Additionally, insufficient instruction and training had been given to those performing the work tasks.

On 14th June 2023, the company pleaded guilty to breaching section 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £660,000.

### What Could Have Been Done?

The aircraft seat manufacturer's failure to provide adequate training and instruction to employees demonstrates what could go wrong should employers not abide by HSE regulations. Employers must fulfil their safety obligations by ensuring risk assessments include anyone who may come into contact with hazards, are fit for purpose and are regularly reviewed. Additionally, companies should provide the necessary equipment, instruction and training to their workers to help prevent incidents.

**Contact us today** for additional workplace safety and risk management guidance.

