



SUBJECT: **Bring the Ceiling Down!**

RECIPIENTS: All Service areas (including schools)

ISSUE DATE: Sept 2018 **REF:** HSB114

Worker injured after falling through roof

A cheese company has been fined £8,000 after an employee was seriously injured after falling through a fragile roof.

A sheriff Court was told how, on 30 October 2017, an employee of a Cheese Company was asked by the general manager to retrieve a dead mouse from an unfloored loft area. After doing this by crawling along ceiling battens, he then placed his foot on a fragile board which had been left behind when the factory was built. The board gave way and he fell approximately 2.5 metres to the reception below.



The HSE found that the Cheese Company ordinarily brought in external contractors to deal with vermin issues and that employees were not normally required to work at height within the business.

It was also found that, on this occasion, the employee fell though the suspended ceiling and suffered a significant injury because no control measures had been implemented to safely cross the unfloored loft.

The Cheese Company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4 of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and was fined £8,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector said: "Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work related fatalities in this country and the risks associated with working at height are well known. Working on or near fragile surfaces should be properly assessed and managed. "This case highlights the importance for companies to assess and control risks created by non-routine tasks."

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:
Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)