

CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER ACT

BSC seminar offers advice following first prosecution

A Gloucestershire building firm and one of its directors will be the first to be prosecuted under the new corporate manslaughter law. The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 came into effect on 6 April 2008 in order to make it easier to convict large organisations when senior managers have breached their duty of care, resulting in death. Under the new Act, companies could face unlimited fines and other penalties if found guilty of corporate manslaughter.

Peter Eaton and his company, Cotswold Geotechnical Holdings Ltd, have been charged as a result of the death of an employee who was gathering soil samples in a trench which collapsed and killed him.

Kevin Bridges and Zoe Betts of Pinsent Masons LLP will be presenting the first in a series of British Safety Council sponsored seminars at Health and Safety 09, Bolton. The presentation will cover the main elements of the legislation and its impact to date, on corporate and personal liability. It's more important than ever that health and safety management is at the top of the priority list for all businesses and this seminar will be a timely reminder of the possible consequences if it isn't.