

2 Sisters Food safety breach: £1.4m fine after worker suffers serious crush injuries

2 Sisters Food Group has been sentenced following an incident in which a worker was injured while unblocking a machine on the poultry slaughter line.

On 6 September 2012, an employee of the food processing company was attempting to clear a blockage on a conveying system at its Foxhills Industrial Estate site in Scunthorpe, when he was struck by a large metal stillage. As a result, his body was crushed at chest height against the end of the unit. He sustained multiple injuries including several fractured ribs, fractures to his back and a punctured lung.

The HSE's investigation found the company had failed to identify deficiencies in the guarding on the machine, and the clearing of blockages was usually carried out while the machine was still in operation.

2 Sisters Food Group Limited of Trinity Park House, Fox Way, Wakefield pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £1.4 million with £38,000 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Kirsty Storer said: *"The employee's life-threatening injuries could easily have been prevented had the company identified the guarding deficiencies and put in place simple measures to prevent access to dangerous parts of machinery."*

"This should serve as a lesson to others in the food processing industry about the importance of effectively guarding their machinery to stop others being similarly injured."

In February, SHP reported that 2 Sisters Food Group had been sentenced following two separate incidents in 2016 where workers became trapped in moving machinery.

