



MAURICE MASON LTD.

HALL FARM, FINCHAM,
KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK, PE33 9DQ

TELEPHONE: [REDACTED]

FACSIMILE: [REDACTED]

15th June '16

Attn:- Jacqueline Lake

Herewith is the response to the Coroner's Report and letter, dated 1st April 16 and in particular to Section 5 relating to the Coroner's concerns and Section 6 relating to action to be taken.

Section 5

- 1) For clarification, as of July 2014 there was a member of staff that had undergone training in respect of assessing risk and carrying out risk assessments. This is [REDACTED] who held a valid IOSH certificate (copy enclosed) and was part of the management team overseeing Health and Safety within the Company. He has 15 years of experience, 10 of those years before joining Maurice Mason Ltd (MML). MML have now undertaken to provide extensive training of more staff in the management of health and safety using the accredited IOSH scheme. Please see the below response under Section 6 for full details. It is also of note that [REDACTED] who provided evidence at the Inquest in relation to the production of risk assessments and risk management is no longer an employee of MML.
- 2) The Company is saddened that they were not able to get across to the Coroner that their staff endeavoured to understand the risks involved and wishes to reiterate that all staff were working to the best of their abilities at all times. MML wishes to express that they have in the past and will continue to strive to achieve good health and safety practices.

Section 6

MML has taken the actions set out below in order to comply with the Coroner's Report and in order to further review health and safety across its business, not just in respect of the areas highlighted by the Coroner's Report. In relation to practices on the farm concerning the cleaning of grain bins it is now the case that no personnel whatsoever are to enter the grain bins at any time for cleaning, or indeed any other purposes. This practice no longer forms part of any work at MML. Therefore the potential risks in relation to working inside the grain bins have been eradicated. As a result there is no remaining risk on site of working in a confined space – such that was the subject of evidence at the inquest.

With regards to the specific grain store building, a new risk assessment has been done along with a method statement. It is now more detailed and addresses the risks of the new method of work. A copy is attached. This now addresses the risks that are present in the new cleaning method and the appropriate method of work for cleaning the bins. This document was updated as result of a visit from the HSE, after the Inquest. A version of this updated document will also be sent independently to the HSE and it will also be subject to further review by Cope Safety Management Ltd (see below).

In order to address the Coroner's concerns and to address safety issues across MML the Company has instructed Cope Safety Management Ltd (CSML) (qualifications attached) to review and amend:-

- a) Health and Safety Policy
- b) Bespoke risk assessments including as appended to this document, a new risk assessment for the cleaning of the grain bins.
- c) Bespoke safe systems of work, to include emergency plans as appropriate (also environmental)
- d) Employee H+S handbook
- e) Site safety inspections (4 per year)
- f) "Tool Box" talks held on site with staff, complete with appropriate literature
- g) Internet access to CSML updated H+S documentation, to keep MML updated with current legislation along with telephone contact/support.
- h) Quarterly updates on H+S matters

CSML becomes MML's nominated safety advisor. This is a two year contract, formal signing was 28th April '16 (copy of agreement enclosed, please note that it is Option 1 that is being taken).

To broaden MML's understanding of Health and Safety and to strengthen our ability to ensure that that staff who are responsible for health and safety understand the issues and risks involved, further formal training has been booked as set out below. In particular:-

- ██████████
- I. "IOSH Directing Safely" (1 day, to be completed 27th July 16)
 - II. "IOSH Managing Safely" (4 days, to be completed 27th Sept 16)
 - III. 1st Aid at Work (3 days, date to be confirmed)

██████████ (office manager)

██████████ (factory manager)

- I. "IOSH Managing Safely" (4 days, completed 10th June 16)

[REDACTED] (farm manger)

II. "IOSH Managing Safety" (4 days, to be completed 22nd June 16)

There will be further training for staff members in more focused areas to strengthen staff involvement and understanding. It is not possible at this time to give details but it will be on the advice and with input from CSML.

As referred to above emergency plans will be specifically reviewed by CSML and prepared as and where appropriate on the advice of CSML and to address the concerns of the Coroner in relation to Emergency plans. At the time of the accident there were two fully trained and current, first aiders on site. These were [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. There has been a fully maintained defibrillator on farm since 30th Jan '15, with open access. All MML staff have been fully trained in its use along with first aid training.

Conclusion

Maurice Mason Ltd has striven to comply with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. It recognises that this process is a living one and needs continue work and improvement.

MML believes that it has responded to the Coroner's report actively and positively but it will continue to work both with CSML and the HSE, where necessary, to ensure high standards of practice are adopted across its site.

It is difficult to fully articulate the importance that MML attaches to adhering to the highest standards of health and safety practice on site, both in the past and going forward.

I, as the director of MML, lost my son.

Yours faithfully

A. J. Mason

[REDACTED]