

2014-CB-38

For Immediate Release  
August 1, 2014

**Erie Greenhouse Structures Inc. Fined \$73,000 After Worker Injured**

WOODSTOCK, ON – Erie Greenhouse Structures Inc., a company that produces and installs greenhouses and related equipment in Tillsonburg, has been fined \$73,000 after a worker lost part of a finger in machinery.

On June 27, 2012, a worker was welding pieces of metal at the company’s industrial workplace at 15 Clearview Drive in Tillsonburg. The welder was using a brake press to form metal into a tobacco bin when a finger was pinched in the machine’s pinch point. As a result, the welder lost most of the finger. A Ministry of Labour investigation followed.

It was determined that the brake press was not maintained in good condition and that two of three methods of operation were not working. As well, it was determined that the machine was not guarded at its pinch point as required.

The investigation also found that there was an administrative contravention about the workplace joint health and safety committee. By law a workplace that employs between 20 and 49 workers must have a joint health and safety committee and have at least two workers on the committee; Erie Greenhouse Structures employs 22 workers including the welder who was injured.

No one acting for Erie Greenhouse Structures attended the trial held on July 23 in Woodstock. The company was found guilty on three counts under the Occupational Health and Safety Act by Justice of the Peace Robert M. Seneshen, and was fined a total of \$73,000. A charge against a supervisor is pending and may proceed to trial in September.

In addition to the fine, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

**For further information:**

**Media contact:**

Bruce Skeaff  
Ministry of Labour  
416-326-7405

**Court Information at a Glance**

<b>Location:</b>	Woodstock County Courthouse 419 Hunter Street Woodstock, Ontario
<b>Judge:</b>	Justice of the Peace Robert M. Seneshen
<b>Date of Sentencing:</b>	July 23, 2014
<b>Defendant:</b>	Erie Greenhouse Structures Inc. 15 Clearview Drive Tillsonburg, Ontario
<b>Matter:</b>	Occupational health and safety
<b>Convictions:</b>	Occupational Health and Safety Act Section 9(4) Section 25(1)(b)  Occupational Health and Safety Act Ontario Regulation 851 (Industrial Establishments) Section 25(1)(c)
<b>Crown Counsel:</b>	Jamie L. Chiang



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