

06-116

For Immediate Release
November 1, 2006

SOLID STONE INC. FINED \$50,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

NEWMARKET, Ont. – Solid Stone Inc., a Concord, Ont.-based processor of marble and granite used in the construction industry, was fined \$50,000 on October 31, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in serious injuries to an employee.

On September 27, 2004, a worker was helping to move six marble slabs, each weighing about 181 kilograms (400 pounds), when the slabs fell onto the worker. At the time of the incident, the worker had been holding the slabs against a “rack/material handling device” (storage equipment that was loaded with the slabs), but, as the rack/material handling device was being lifted, the worker had advised a second worker of being unable to continue to hold onto the slabs. The second worker was operating a three-ton-capacity overhead crane that was being used to lift the rack/material handling device. The slabs fell off the rack/material handling device and the first worker suffered multiple leg injuries. The second worker was unharmed. The incident occurred at the company’s plant at 110 Cidermill Avenue in Concord.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found the marble slabs were not attached, tied or in any way secured to the rack/material handling device. The slabs were being moved to enable access to other materials that were to be picked up by a customer.

Solid Stone Inc. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure the material being lifted was moved in such a way, and with such precautions and safeguards, so as to ensure its moving did not endanger a worker’s safety, as required by Section 45(a) of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice Howard Chisvin of the Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket. In addition, 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.

-30-

Contacts:
Belinda Sutton
Ministry of Labour
416-326-7405

Shantanu Roy
Crown Counsel
Legal Services Branch
Ministry of Labour
416-326-6483

Court Information at a Glance

Location: Ontario Court of Justice
50 Eagle Street West, Courtroom 303
Newmarket, Ontario

Judge: Justice Howard Chisvin

Date / Time: October 31, 2006, 9:30 a.m.

Defendant: Solid Stone Inc.

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

Disponible en français

www.labour.gov.on.ca