

IKEA HOLDINGS CANADA LIMITED FINED \$80,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS

BURLINGTON, Ont. – Ikea Holdings Canada Limited, a retail furniture chain that operates a store in Burlington, was fined \$80,000 today for two violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in a leg injury to an employee.

On January 28, 2006, two workers were unloading a trailer in a shipping/receiving area when a section of product on skids fell on one of the workers. The worker suffered a broken bone in the right leg. Following the incident, the scene was not secured and two other workers removed the remainder of the load. The Ministry of Labour was notified about six hours after the incident and was advised the trailer had been emptied and was no longer on the premises. The ministry was told an employee had taken several photographs of the scene and video footage was available. The incident occurred at the company's store at 1065 Plains Road East in Burlington.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found one of the factors that contributed to the incident was carpets and door mats that were on top of other products on the skids. In addition, some of the load was not stored in a secure manner to prevent it from falling.

Ikea Holdings Canada Limited pleaded guilty, as an employer, to:

1. failing to ensure the load was stored in a manner so as to prevent tipping, collapsing or falling, as required by Section 45(b) of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act; and
2. failing to preserve the scene of the incident. This was contrary to Section 51(2) of the act.

Justice of the Peace Christine O'Halloran fined the company \$70,000 on the first count and \$10,000 on the second count. 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.

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Court Information at a Glance

Location: Ontario Court of Justice
2051 Plains Road East, Courtroom 2
Burlington, Ontario

Judge: Justice of the Peace Christine O'Halloran

Date / Time: November 27, 2006, 9 a.m.

Defendant: Ikea Holdings Canada Limited

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

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