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For Immediate Release
April 11, 2006

PREMIER PALLET REPAIR LTD. AND DIRECTOR FINED FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS

BRAMPTON, Ont. – Premier Pallet Repair Ltd., a Mississauga, Ont.-based company that manufactures, repairs and sells wooden pallets used for the transportation of goods, was fined \$22,500 and a director was fined \$2,500 today for violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

On November 9, 2004, a Ministry of Labour inspector inspected the company's plant at 3311 Caroga Drive in Mississauga and asked to see inspection logs for two forklifts. Under the Regulations for Industrial Establishments, forklifts must be inspected at least annually and a permanent record of the inspections must be kept. When the company could not produce the inspection logs, or anything indicating the forklifts had been inspected at least annually, the inspector issued an order requiring the company to inspect the forklifts by November 23, 2004. On March 23, 2005, the inspector returned to the plant and found the forklifts had not been inspected.

Premier Pallet Repair Ltd. pleaded guilty to:

1. Failing, as an employer, to ensure two forklifts were thoroughly examined by a competent person to determine their capability of handling the maximum rated load prior to being used for the first time and thereafter at least once a year, as required by Section 51(1)(b) of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act; and
2. Failing, as a person, to comply with the order issued by the Ministry of Labour inspector on November 9, 2004. This was contrary to Section 66(1)(b) of the act.

Justice of the Peace Hilda Weiss of the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton, fined the company \$7,500 on the first count and \$15,000 on the second count.

In addition, a company director pleaded guilty to failing to take all reasonable care to ensure Premier Pallet Repair Ltd. complied with the inspector's order. This was contrary to Section 32(b) of the act.

In addition to the fines, 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.

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

Joe Ferraro
Crown Counsel
Legal Services Branch
Ministry of Labour
416-326-7975

Court Information at a Glance

Location: Ontario Court of Justice
5 Ray Lawson Boulevard, Courtroom A3
Brampton, Ontario

Judge: Justice of the Peace Hilda Weiss

Date / Time: April 11, 2006, 3 p.m.

Defendants: Premier Pallet Repair Ltd; and a
Company director

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

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