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For Immediate Release
May 17, 2006

SYRI-CON CORPORATION AND COMPANY DIRECTOR FINED FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS

SIMCOE, Ont. – Syri-Con Corporation, a Woodstock, Ont.-based manufacturer of building products for commercial farm operations, was fined \$55,000 on May 16, 2006 for four violations, and a director was fined \$10,000 for two violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

In August 2002 the Ministry of Labour conducted a regulatory audit and found several violations of the act and the Regulations for Industrial Establishments, including:

- No workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) had been established
- No guarding devices to prevent access to pinch points in sprockets and chains on two sides of a drive motor
- Obstructions, hazards and accumulations of refuse at 11 locations where there was worker access
- Non-compliance between September 29, 2001 and August 19, 2002 with a Ministry of Labour order issued on July 19, 2001 requiring that at least one JHSC employer representative and one JHSC worker representative be certified as health and safety members.

The audit was conducted, and the violations found, at the company's plant at 48 Brentwood Drive in Princeton in the County of Brant, located about 20 kilometres (12 miles) east of Woodstock, Ont.

Syri-Con Corporation pleaded guilty, as an employer, to:

1. Failing to cause a JHSC to be established and maintained at the Princeton plant, as required by Section 9(4) of the act. This was contrary to Section 66(1)(a) of the act
2. Failing to ensure that measures and procedures required by Section 25 of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments were carried out at the workplace. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act
3. Failing to ensure that measures and procedures required by Section 11 of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments were carried out at the workplace. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act
4. Failing to comply between September 29, 2001 and August 19, 2002 with a Ministry of Labour order. This was contrary to Section 66(1)(b) of the act.

Justice Brian Stead, of the Ontario Court of Justice in Simcoe, fined the company \$10,000 on each of the first and third counts, \$5,000 on the second count and \$30,000 on the fourth count.

In addition, a company director pleaded guilty to:

1. Failing to take all reasonable care to ensure that Syri-Con Corporation cause a JHSC to be established and maintained at the Princeton workplace, as required by Section 9(4) of the act. This was contrary to Section 32 of the act
2. Failing between September 29, 2001 and August 19, 2002 to take all reasonable care to ensure that Syri-Con Corporation complied with a Ministry of Labour order. This was contrary to Section 32 of the act.

Justice Stead fined the director \$5,000 on each count.

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.

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Court Information at a Glance

Location: Ontario Court of Justice
530 Queensway West, Courtroom 3
Simcoe, Ontario

Judge: Justice Brian Stead

Date / Time: May 16, 2006, 9:30 a.m.

Defendants: Syri-Con Corporation, and a
Company director

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

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