



Eatons

Hearing Loss Damages of £3,500

A factory worker whose hearing was damaged because of exposure to noisy machinery has been awarded £3,500 in compensation.

Stuart Capell, 61, worked for Alcoa Extruded Products (UK) Ltd. as an extrusion operative from 1974 to 2005. During this time he was exposed to excessive noise from presses and surrounding machinery. His employers did not offer him any hearing protection until the mid-1980s.

Mr Capell realised his hearing had been affected after he had a medical in 2005. He was diagnosed with noise induced hearing loss which is a permanent condition.

Whilst the law on controlling noise levels at work was tightened up when the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 were introduced in April 2006, employers have been required to protect workers from damage to their hearing for decades.

Meanwhile, the Health and Safety Executive estimates that more than a million workers are exposed to potentially damaging levels of noise at work.

Not only can prolonged exposure to excessive noise cause hearing damage but it is also a safety hazard. A noisy environment can hamper communication as well as cause psychological stress to workers.

The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 place a number of duties on employers. These include implementing noise prevention measures as well as providing workers with ear protection.

Solicitor Gina Nadal of Eatons Solicitors in Bradford commented that 'Research suggests that as many as 170,000 people in the UK have suffered deafness, tinnitus or other ear conditions as a result of exposure to excessive noise at work.' She continued 'What's more, if you have suffered damage to your hearing as a result of exposure to high noise levels at work, you could be entitled to compensation.'

For further information regarding hearing loss claims please contact Karl Preston on Tel: 01274 728 327.

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