

## ICL INQUIRY STATEMENT

### CAMERON ADAM

1. I started working with the HSE as a Trainee Inspector in October 1991 in Glasgow
2. In October 1993 I became a qualified Inspector.
3. I presently hold the qualifications of MA Honours degree, a Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety, a Diploma in Personnel Management and a Diploma in Environmental Management. I have only a vague recollection of my visit to ICL Plastics Factory, Grovepark Street, Glasgow.
4. I remember it as an old styled factory. I visited the premises on one occasion only.
5. The date of my visit was the 2 February 2000 (02/02/2000). At this time my title was HM Inspector of Health and Safety. No other member of the HSE was there with me. **[ICL/012482]**
6. The purpose of the visit was to carry out a routine unannounced inspection. By routine inspection I mean that the visit was not in relation to any complaint or external contact by any person.
7. At the time of the visit I would have recorded entries relating to the visit in my official HSE notebook. I no longer have this notebook. At this time it was normal to discard notebooks once ongoing enquiries were complete.
8. I am able to tell from FOCUS file entries made by me at the time of my visit that the persons I spoke to form ICL were a Mr BROWN, Mr STOTT and Mr COLLINS. I also met a number of other employees including a B MASTERTON. Looking at the FOCUS file entries of 2 February 2000 there were issues raised relating to the exposure of employees of hazardous

substances. The substances involved included isocyanates, epoxy resin and styrene which are contained in resins.

9. Referring to my FOCUS file entries of 2 February 2000 I clearly had an issue with machinery guarding. This was the circular saws and the risk of persons contacting the rotating blades and sustaining serious injury. I have also noted in the report that management were not managing health and safety properly.
10. I formed this impression from what I saw during my visit in relation to the matters I have already stated in relation to the saw blades and exposure of employees to the hazardous substances and my discussions with management.
11. At the time I would have given verbal advice to the senior staff regarding these breaches of the law and any other matters requiring their attention.
12. On this visit I issued two Prohibition Notices (PNs) : Serial numbers P/CA/2/2/002 and P/CA/2/2/003 to staff member Colin BROWN, Managing Director, who countersigned each notice. These notices prohibited the use of two circular saws. I actually wrote out four PNs but the guards had been replaced on two machines before I left the premises, so the Notices for these two machines were not served. **[ICL/ 012239-012242]**
13. My next contact with ICL was when I was sent a letter dated 7/2/2000 (07/02/2000), to Mr MARSHALL also listed as Managing Director. This was to confirm the enforcement action in writing to the company and raise other matters of concern identified at the inspection. **[ICL/ 012235]**
14. I also served an Improvement Notice with the letter, giving the company until the 30 April 2000 (30/04/2000) to assess the risks to employees from hazardous substances used or generated on the premises. **[ICL/ 012233]**

15. I also sent a similar letter to the employees dated 8 February 2000 (08/02/2000). This letter contained copies of all enforcement notices [ICL/ 012230]. I then sent a letter dated 23 April 2001 (23/04/2001) [ICL/ 012228], again for the attention of Mr P MARSHALL requesting he inform me what measures had been taken to comply with the notices I had served.
16. To the best of my knowledge I did not receive a reply to this letter. I do not know if these matters were resolved.
17. During my visit I assessed the management's ability to manage Health and Safety on the premises based on discussions with management and my observations at the visit.
18. That assessment is reflected in the ratings applied to the company on 'FOCUS'. To my mind this was a high rating and my expectation would be that the company would come up for "inspection" year beginning 1 April 2000 (01/04/2000). This is confirmed in my letter dated, 7 February 2000 (07/02/2000) [ICL/ 012235], stating to Mr P MARSHALL, that I would be contacting the company within the next few months to check for compliance.
19. The company would then have been rated by the FOCUS computer system. A weighting would be applied based on risks associated with the plastics industry. The final calculation would determine when the site next came up for inspection. I do not know when this would be although given my rating I would have expected it to appear as a Category A premises quite soon.
20. I had no further dealing with the company after my letter of April 2001. At no time did I have any occasion to deal with the Gas (mains) LPG or electrical systems connected with the premises.

21. I would like to add that the principal duty holder regarding Health and Safety in this instance is ICL Tech Ltd. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 it is their duty to ensure the Health, Safety and Welfare of their employees whilst at work. It's my role to assess their ability to do so by sampling work activities over their premises and taking whatever action is necessary based on that sample.

22. ICL Tech was a plastics factory. The priorities for inspection at the visit were those issues identified by the Fibres and Polymers HSE National Interest Group. In this instance machinery guarding was a priority. Management of health risks was also a priority. HSE was engaged in a campaign called Good Health is Good Business and inspectors were expected to deal with health issues during inspections. I would also have considered previous HSE contact on the FOCUS computer system. These were the priorities for my visit.

23. I am reasonably certain I did not see any LPG installation at the visit and it was not brought to my attention. I therefore had no cause to deal with the issue. Had I done so I would have focused on separation of the tank from boundaries and fixed sources of ignition, the condition of the tank and surrounding area, the availability of fire fighting equipment, that pressure relief valves were present and I would discuss filling procedures. I would not have proactively considered the underground buried pipework or where the pipework entered the building. That had not formed part of my training or experience at that stage in my career and there were no instructions from HSE to deal with that as a specific issue at factory inspections at this time. I believe this to be the case for most FOD inspectors of my vintage at this time.

I confirm the contents of this statement to be true.

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_