

Vesivek initiates comprehensive safety inspections

Vesivek is intensifying its training efforts and launching thorough inspections among its personnel and subcontractors to ensure the safety of asbestos removal projects.

The Vesivek Group is taking decisive measures to ensure 100% safety in its work projects, including internal training programs and enhanced safety inspections.

Earlier this year, Vesivek Oy was fined for safety deficiencies related to an asbestos removal project that took place in the fall of 2020 at a residential roof renovation site in Keuruu, Finland. Vesivek will not appeal the court's decision.

On May 24th, the Regional State Administrative Agency (AVI) issued a press release on the matter, citing previous fines imposed on Vesivek for safety violations. The majority of these occurred between 2011 and 2016, with confirmations of the judgments received in 2016 and 2017. The majority of the judgments were related to inadequate use of roof fall protection during installations, which were performed without scaffolding at the time.

To rectify these shortcomings, Vesivek began implementing the highest standard of structural fall protection from January 2018 onwards. As the first Finnish company in the industry, Vesivek introduced around-the-house scaffolding as roof fall protection in all residential building projects.

In practice, scaffolding is the only way to achieve adequate roof fall protection. Contrary to common belief, the use of safety harnesses is not legally compliant for fall protection in roof construction. Since the implementation of scaffolding, no safety-related issues have occurred in the projects.

A more stringent approach to safety matters

"One safety deficiency is one too many. Whenever errors are identified, we take immediate action to rectify them. We are now intensifying our inspections to ensure that mistakes do not recur. We are adopting a stricter stance towards all safety deficiencies in asbestos projects and throughout our work, whether involving our own personnel or subcontractors," states Kimmo Riihimäki, CEO of the Vesivek Group.

"Since implementing scaffolding, we have received significant positive feedback from both authorities and customers regarding the outstanding level of fall protection achieved through its use. Now we are ensuring that the safety of our asbestos projects reaches an equally exemplary level."

Ensuring safe work at heights is an integral part of the Vesivek Group's strategic objectives. The company undertakes nearly 20,000 projects annually. As a diversified corporation, the Vesivek Group's service portfolio, resulting from recent acquisitions, includes four main service lines: roof renovations, rainwater systems, roof safety products, and drainage systems.

Vesivek Group develops and manufactures roof safety products for both new construction and renovation projects through Vesivek Tuotteet Oy. In the service line focused on roof safety, the company offers comprehensive services to enhance safety while working at heights, including the installation of safety systems on roofs, training for property maintenance professionals, and provision of periodic inspections.