OSHA: Holley company facing serious fines for safety and health violations

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HOLLEY — A village business is facing more than $200,000 in fines and penalties after being accused of “willful and serious” safety and health violations, federal officials said Thursday.

The Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Arbre Group Holding — doing business as Holli-Pac Inc. — for violating standards at its location. The company, which packages frozen fruits and vegetables for retailers, faces a total of $200,791 in penalties.

OSHA inspectors determined that the company exposed employees to laceration and amputation hazards related to a package filler machine, Department of Labor officials said in a news release.

Parts of the machine did not have doors to prevent employees from contacting operating parts, the officials said. The access door on another part of the machine lacked an interlock mechanism to stop the machine’s operation when opening the door.

OSHA also cited the company for inadequate lockout/tagout procedures and failing to train employees on hazardous chemicals in the workplace. The company also allegedly failed to
obtain annual audiograms for employees exposed to excessive noise levels; ensure employees wore appropriate eye and face protection; and repair damaged parts on electrical equipment.

OSHA conducted the inspections under the Site-Specific Targeting Program, which directs enforcement resources to workplaces where the highest rate of injuries and illnesses have occurred.

“Employers that do not comply with the law will see full and fair enforcement,” said OSHA's Buffalo Area Director Michael Scime in the release. “Maintaining a safe workplace involves employers regularly conducting analyses to find and fix hazards, and training workers to recognize those hazards before they cause injury or illness.”

OSHA offers compliance assistance resources on occupational noise exposure, machine guarding, control of hazardous energy, and chemical hazard communication.

Holli-Pac is located at 16677 Holley Rd. and is described as being in the packaged frozen goods business. The company has 15 business days from receipt of the citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to help ensure these conditions for American working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education, and assistance.

For more information, visit https://www.osha.gov.

The Daily News has reached out to Holli_Pac for comment.

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