
Two Ohio business owners convicted for failing to workers' comp coverage

Second conviction for both employers

NEWS RELEASE

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COLUMBUS — A Columbus-area business owner with a criminal history against the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation pleaded guilty Monday to failing to carry workers' compensation coverage on his asphalt paving business.

James T. Wilson Jr., 52, of New Albany, pleaded guilty in a Columbus courtroom to a second-degree misdemeanor count of failure to comply after BWC investigators found him operating Performance Companies LLC/Enviro Recycling Group without workers' compensation coverage. The plea came nine years after Wilson's first case with BWC, when he pleaded guilty to a fourth-degree felony theft charge and was ordered to pay BWC more than \$180,000 in restitution.

"We attempted to work with Mr. Wilson to bring his business into compliance with Ohio law, but ultimately we had to go with this course of action," said Jim Wernecke, director of BWC's special investigations department. "I can't say this enough to employers in our system: If you're struggling with your BWC premiums, reach out to our agency and work with us. Don't risk a criminal conviction."

Wilson's sentencing will be scheduled for a later date after BWC has finished auditing his business records. Click [here](#) for a photo of Wilson.

In other news, the owner of a food warehouse and market in Cleveland pleaded guilty Nov. 13 to a first-degree misdemeanor charge of workers' compensation fraud after he lapsed on a repayment plan related to his 2014 conviction on a similar charge.

Yue Liang, owner of New Sheng Hung, agreed to pay BWC \$5,500 toward the balance owed to the agency and an additional \$2,000 in restitution. He was sentenced to one year of community control and ordered to bring his policy into compliance.

Click [here](#) for a photo of Liang.

To report suspected workers' compensation fraud, call 1-800-644-6292 or visit bwc.ohio.gov.

Media Contacts:

Tony Gottschlich, 614-644-4940 or 614-296-1734, anthony.gottschlich@bwc.state.oh.us

Established in 1912, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation provides workers' compensation insurance to 242,000 public and private Ohio employers. With 1,800 employees and assets of approximately \$29 billion, BWC is the largest state-run insurance system in the United States. Our mission is to protect Ohio's workers and employers through the prevention, care and management of workplace injuries and illnesses at fair rates. For more, visit www.bwc.ohio.gov.
