

## **Company Supervisor Sentenced for Using Improper Asbestos Removal Practices**

On October 18, 2006, Jason Scardecchio was sentenced in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to 1 year and 1 day in prison followed by 36 months of supervised release. In addition, he was ordered to pay a special assessment of \$300 and restitution in the amount of \$11,805. This sentence resulted from Scardecchio's guilty plea to charges of mail fraud and improperly removing asbestos.

Scardecchio was employed as a supervisor by Indoor Air Quality, Inc., Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. In July 2006, the company's owner, Wallace Heidelberg, and the company itself were sentenced for similar charges. On December 18, 2006, as a result of the convictions, all three defendants were determined to be ineligible to receive government contracts or benefits at the Phoenixville location until the underlying conditions that caused the Clean Air Act offense have been corrected.

Heidelberg, Scardecchio, and Indoor Air Quality, Inc., removed asbestos from homes and commercial buildings in the Philadelphia area. The indictment, issued in August 2005, charged the defendants with mail fraud, false statements, and failure to comply with Federal requirements for removing and handling asbestos.

The defendants operated a scheme to defraud homeowners by promising to use proper techniques in removing asbestos from their residences. The defendants routinely failed to use the promised techniques; instead, they removed asbestos without adequate water and failed to keep the removed asbestos adequately wet. The defendants also regularly falsified air testing at the conclusion of asbestos removal jobs by sending blank, unused air sample canisters to a testing lab instead of an air sample from the residence where the removal job occurred. The defendants would then tell the homeowners that the building's air had passed the post-removal air test.

*The investigation was conducted jointly with the EPA Criminal Investigation Division, with cooperation from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (Case Cost: \$323,562)*