

PRESS RELEASE

Massachusetts Company Pleads Guilty to Violating OSHA Rule Leading to Worker's Death

Thursday, February 5, 2026

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Massachusetts

BOSTON – John Oliveira & Sons Stamp Concrete, Inc., a corporation doing business in East Freetown, Mass. pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court in Boston to willfully violating Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety standards in a 2023 incident that led to a worker's death.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul G. Levenson scheduled sentencing for May 4, 2026.

According to court documents, the company utilized a large soil screener for purposes of processing and screening soil and similar substances. The soil screener was approximately 46 feet long and 13 feet high, and weighed approximately 35,880 lbs. The tail conveyor of the soil screener – which weighed approximately 1,500 pounds – could be placed in a vertical closed position or could be opened to an approximate 45° angle. At various occasions in 2022 or 2023, the tail conveyor of the soil screener closed unexpectedly, and the soil screener had suffered a ruptured hydraulic pressure line.

On Sept. 6, 2023, a company employee was working alongside a co-owner on the tail conveyor of the soil screener, which was in the open position. At the time, there was no equipment in place to prevent the tail conveyor from closing. According to the charging documents, as the employee was seeking to remove a bolt, the tail conveyor closed unexpectedly. The employee held onto the upper frame of the soil screener as the tail conveyor closed into the vertical position, crushing the employee's head. The employee suffered massive head trauma and was pronounced dead soon thereafter.

For willfully violating an OSHA safety standard, John Oliveira & Sons Stamp Concrete, Inc. faces a term of probation of up to five years, a fine of up to \$500,000 and restitution payable to the estate of the deceased victim. Sentences are imposed by a federal judge based upon statutory factors.

United States Attorney Leah B. Foley; Anthony D'Esposito, Inspector General of the Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General; Jeff Erskine, Regional Administrator of the Department of Labor OSHA Boston Region; and Maia Fisher, Regional Solicitor for Department of Labor Boston Region made the announcement. Assistance in the investigation was also provided by the OSHA Criminal Investigations Team, Boston Region. Assistant U.S. Attorney William F. Abely, Chief of the Criminal Division is prosecuting the case.

Updated February 5, 2026