

Aquilini fine appeal rejected

BY ANDREA WOO, VANCOUVER SUN JANUARY 23, 2012 escapes.ca

WorkSafeBC's review division has rejected an appeal by the Aquilini family over fines levied last year.

Francesco, Roberto and Elisa Aquilini, operating as Geri Partner-ship-Golden Eagle Ranch, were fined \$125,402 for safety violations at their berry operation at 15351 Aquilini Ave. in Pitt Meadows.

An inspection in 2010, found vehicles used to transport workers were not "designed, maintained and operated in a safe manner" and were not operated by a properly licensed driver, said a WorkSafeBC inspection report.

Inspections on Sept. 3 and 7, 2010, found the Aquilinis failed to provide workers with "information, instruction, training and supervision necessary to ensure the health and safety of those workers in carrying out their work and to ensure the health and safety of others at the workplace," according to the report.

The two penalties, each for \$62,701, were determined based on the payroll and nature of the violations. They can appeal the review division decision, said Donna Freeman of WorkSafeBC.

"The final level of appeal is WCAT - the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal," she said.

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