

The risks of Google in Polish

A POLISH worker was seriously injured in a dumper truck accident after following safety instructions that had been translated into "gibberish" using Google.

Grzegorz Krzyzak, 32, who speaks pidgin English, was using a one-ton, articulated dumper truck to remove soil at a nursery and garden centre near Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex. As he was tipping a load, the truck overturned and crushed his right leg.

Parkers Nurseries was convicted of breaching health and safety laws and fined £5,000 after bosses at the firm converted instructions and health and safety

manuals using Google Translate, the search engine's free translation service. The Polish that resulted was gibberish, Colchester magistrates' court heard.

The Pole sustained multiple fractures to his shinbone and foot and required four operations. Doctors inserted pins to help repair the bones and gave him a skin graft but it is not known whether he will regain full use of his leg.

Geoff Parker, director of Parkers Nurseries, said the firm now had an external translator to translate health and safety documentation. He added: "We are obviously very sorry that an employee was injured in our workplace."