



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**VICE PRESIDENT OF MIDDLETOWN SAFETY CONSULTING FIRM**  
**SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR AND A DAY IMPRISONMENT**  
**FOR CONSPIRING TO DEFRAUD THE NEW YORK CITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that United States District Judge STEPHEN C. ROBINSON sentenced CHRISTOPHER ROTANTE, 37, a former Vice President of IMS Safety, Inc. ("IMS"), a corporation based in Middletown, New York, yesterday to a term of imprisonment of one year and a day for his participation in a conspiracy to defraud the New York City Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP").

According to the Information to which ROTANTE pled guilty and statements made during court proceedings:

IMS held itself out as a firm specializing in, among other things, regulatory compliance in the area of worker health and safety. IMS was hired by DEP contractors to provide safety oversight at DEP construction sites. Such oversight was required by DEP contracts, which also required that safety oversight personnel be trained in rules and regulations relating to worker safety and experienced in the construction industry and construction safety.

Between 2006 and January 2008, ROTANTE and others engaged in a scheme through which they made false representations to DEP relating to the experience and training of certain IMS employees who were candidates for safety oversight positions so that DEP would approve their appointments. These false representations concerned, among other things, the employees' experience in the construction industry and with construction safety and the employees' training on rules and regulations relating to worker health and safety.

In pleading guilty, ROTANTE admitted that he had engaged

in a scheme from 2006 to 2008 to place unqualified employees with DEP. He admitted that, on numerous occasions, he composed resumes for employees that misrepresented the employees' qualifications to serve as site safety representatives and, on numerous occasions, he deployed those employees to DEP construction sites. DEP paid out more than \$1 million as a result of the fraudulent scheme.

In addition to the sentence of one year and a day in prison, Judge ROBINSON ordered ROTANTE to pay \$1,035,000 to DEP in restitution and to forfeit \$1,035,000 to the United States. Judge ROBINSON also imposed a term of 3 years' supervised release.

On July 8, 2009, Judge ROBINSON sentenced JOHN MEYER, another Vice President of IMS, to a term of imprisonment of 24 months for his participation in the same conspiracy to defraud the DEP. IMS and JOSEPH MAZZURCO, 55, the President of IMS, pled guilty on June 8, 2009, before United States District Judge KENNETH M. KARAS in federal court in White Plains, New York, to participating in the conspiracy to defraud the DEP and also to defrauding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. IMS and MAZZURCO are scheduled to be sentenced on October 27, 2009.

Mr. BHARARA praised the efforts of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division, the United States Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, and the New York City Department of Investigation in connection with this investigation. Mr. BHARARA thanked the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Labor for their assistance in the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys ANNE C. RYAN and MARCIA S. COHEN are in charge of the prosecution.

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