

## \$600,000 for family of welder killed in fall

CHARLOTTE PARSONS

A widow and her family yesterday received \$600,000 from a company held largely to blame for her husband's death.

Welder Wong Pau-kui, 45, fell 13 metres from the second to the first floor of a Rennie's Mill factory because there was no guardrail. Chan Chu-kee, proprietor of Shiu Wing Steel Ltd, settled the damages claim outside the High Court.

On May 6, 1992, Wong was installing a dust collector, while a crane operator nearby was moving a large plate known as a damper.

"He was hit by the damper, lost his balance and fell," Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing concluded earlier

at yesterday's liability hearing. Wong fractured his skull in the fall and died a few hours later.

The judge said the company was 80 per cent to blame for the death, for failing to provide adequate guardrails or safety harnesses. But he said Wong was 20 per cent to blame. He should have known better than to stand at the edge of the factory floor while the damper was swaying nearby, he said.

The \$600,000 settlement will be divided among his widow, Li Tak-foon, 37, his 14-year-old daughter, and his 74-year-old father-in-law. All three had depended on Wong's earnings. The family has also received \$570,000 compensation from the company's insurer.