



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**LICENSED LEAD AND ASBESTOS INSPECTOR SENTENCED  
IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT TO 63 MONTHS IN PRISON  
FOR FALSIFYING LABORATORY TESTS AND INSPECTION REPORTS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that SAVERIO TODARO was sentenced today to 63 months in prison for falsifying lead and asbestos inspection and testing reports for residences and other locations throughout the New York City area. In addition, he was ordered to forfeit \$304,395 and to pay \$107,194 in restitution to the victims of his crimes and a \$45,000 fine. TODARO pled guilty on March 26, 2010, to an 11-count Information charging him with five counts of false statements, three counts of mail fraud, and three counts of violations of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Judge KIMBA M. WOOD.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA stated: "By falsifying literally hundreds of asbestos and lead inspection reports, Saverio Todaro put the health and safety of New York City residents at risk to line his own pockets. The environmental regulatory system relies on the honesty of licensed professionals to protect the public, and today's sentence once again demonstrates that we will not tolerate corrupt professionals who violate the law for their own personal gain."

According to the Information, statements made during court proceedings, and documents submitted in Manhattan federal court:

TODARO was a lead risk assessor certified by the EPA and a New York State licensed asbestos air sampling technician. Until February 2004, he was also a New York City certified asbestos investigator. He operated a company called SAF Environmental Corp. ("SAF"), through which he purported to perform environmental inspection and testing services in the New York City area. EPA has found that there are serious long-term

negative effects to lead exposure and that inhalation of asbestos can cause cancer. It has classified asbestos as a known human carcinogenic. Lead and asbestos are both subject to EPA and City regulations that inspectors must follow. Over several years, TODARO falsified hundreds of lead and asbestos reports and forms indicating that certain inspections and tests had been performed when, in fact, they had not.

In pleading guilty, TODARO admitted that while he was an EPA certified lead risk assessor, he failed to have an EPA approved laboratory analyze dust samples as part of lead clearance procedures in connection with lead abatements, and generated false lab reports that purported to show the results of laboratory analysis of samples when in fact no laboratory analysis had been conducted. He admitted that he had submitted false documents to the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development and the New York City Department of Health, which regulate lead-based paint hazards in local buildings. He also admitted that, for years, he defrauded building management companies, landlords, building contractors, and others, by submitting fraudulent invoices and false laboratory reports for lead clearance testing and asbestos air monitoring that he never actually performed. Finally, he admitted that he lost his New York City asbestos investigator's certificate in February 2004 but prepared backdated asbestos inspection forms for filing with New York City after that date, that he did so without performing actual inspections, and billed customers, many of whom, he realized, billed their own clients, for inspections that he had not actually conducted.

TODARO, 68, currently resides in Richmond Hill, New York. He is scheduled to surrender to the Bureau of Prisons to begin serving his sentence on March 21, 2011.

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In imposing the sentence, Judge WOOD stated that TODARO's crimes were "monumental." Judge WOOD noted that the health of New York City children and adults "heavily depends on inspectors" such as TODARO, and that the public "needs to be able to trust" them. She stated that the sentence needed to send a message to all New York City inspectors that they are guardians of the public trust and that dishonesty in inspections will be punished.

Mr. Bharara praised the work of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division, the New York City Department of Investigation, and the United States Department of Labor Office of Inspector General in this prosecution. Mr. Bharara said that the investigation is continuing.

This case is being handled by the Office's Complex Frauds Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney ANNE C. RYAN is in charge of the prosecution.

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