

# **NSCC**

# **Accident Survey Report**

# **2009/10**



**NSCC**  
Royal London House  
22-25 Finsbury Square  
London  
EC2A 1DX  
T: 0844 249 5351  
E: [enquiries@nsc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nsc.org.uk)  
W: [www.nsc.org.uk](http://www.nsc.org.uk)

## Introduction

The National Specialist Contractors' Council (NSCC) is committed as part of its *Revitalising Health and Safety Strategy* to reducing the fatal and major injury incidence rates within the construction industry over a 10-year period.

In order to measure this target, NSCC collects information every year on accidents occurring to its Specialist Contractors.

The following report summarises the results of the annual NSCC Accident Survey for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

## NSCC Members

Thirty (30) NSCC member organisations have provided accident information as part of the NSCC survey (see appendix A). Almost two thirds (18) obtained a response from more than 50% of their members with ten (10) recording a 100% response. The average response rate from member organisations was a record **53.4%** compared with 49.2% in 2008/09 (appendix B). In total, **2,963** companies responded to the survey.

It is a requirement of NSCC membership to demonstrate an improved response to the Accident Survey year on year or maintain a 100% response. NSCC will continue working with its member organisations in 2010/11 to improve on the success of this year's survey.

Despite the recession which has seen a reduction in the size of the construction workforce, a record **157,190** operatives were included within the 2009/10 survey. This continues the annual upward trend over the last seven years and represents an increase of 14% on 2008/09 (appendix C). **69.6% (109,381)** of the operatives included in the survey were direct employees and **30.4% (47,809)** were labour only sub-contractors.

## Executive Summary

The results of the NSCC Accident Survey for 2009/10 show that the fatal, major and over 3-day injury incidence rates have all fallen to record lows since NSCC began collecting this information seven years ago.

The NSCC fatal and major injury rates are both lower than that of the wider industry. In 2009/10, there were 42 construction fatalities at a rate of **2.2 per 100,000 workers**. NSCC members recorded one fatality during this period giving an NSCC rate of **0.6 per 100,000 workers**. The major injury rate across the industry as a whole was **230.0 per 100,000 workers** with the NSCC rate significantly lower at **163.5 per 100,000 workers**.

NSCC also recorded its lowest over 3-day injury rate at **524.9 per 100,000 workers** since it began collecting accident information in 2003/04.

2009/10 was the most comprehensive NSCC survey to date with responses from almost 3,000 Specialist Contractors employing over 157,000 operatives. This clearly demonstrates the commitment of NSCC and its member organisations to benchmarking and improving the safety performance of Specialist Contractors.

## Accidents

NSCC Specialist Contractors are asked to provide the following accident information in relation to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR).

- Fatal injuries
- Major injuries
- Injuries resulting in more than 3 days absence from normal activities (over 3-day injuries)
- Work-related diseases
- Dangerous Occurrences.

The collated accident figures for 2009/10 are shown in the table below.

### NSCC accidents 2009/10

	Fatal injuries	Major injuries	Over 3-day injuries
<b>Employees</b>	1	184	699
<b>Self-employed</b>	0	73	126
<b>Members of the public</b>	0	5	N/A

Unfortunately the NSCC figures for this year included one fatality where an operative was asphyxiated after being crushed whilst using a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP). This reflects the ongoing risks of working at height and operating plant and equipment and all Specialist Contractors must continue to protect the safety of operatives on site by having appropriate control measures in place at all times.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is currently investigating a number of accidents where operatives have become trapped between the guardrails on MEWPs and adjacent obstructions. A safety notice on avoiding these types of accidents is available at [www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/workplatforms.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/workplatforms.htm).

## Accident Incidence Rates

In order to compare the figures for 2009/10 with those from previous surveys, NSCC has calculated accident incidence rates as follows:

$$\frac{\text{No. of reported accidents} \times 100,000}{\text{Total no. of operatives}}$$

NSCC has recorded its lowest accident incidence rates since it began collecting this information in 2003/04. Over the last seven years, the NSCC fatality rate has fallen by 83%, the major injury rate by 54%, and the over 3-day rate by 57%. A full list of historical NSCC accident incidence rates can be found at appendix D.

In addition, NSCC has also compared its accident rates with those of the industry; however, caution should be exercised when considering the results as it is believed that the accident figures for the industry as compiled by the HSE are under-reported by approximately 40% and those for NSCC are merely projected for comparison purposes (appendix E).

### Fatal injury rate 2009/10

	<b>NSCC</b>	Industry
No. of fatal injuries	<b>1</b>	42
Fatal injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	<b>0.6</b>	2.2

### Major injury rate 2009/10

	<b>NSCC</b>	Industry
No. of major injuries	<b>257</b>	2,585
Major injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	<b>163.5</b>	230.0

### Over 3-day injury rate 2009/10

	<b>NSCC</b>	Industry
No. of over 3-day injuries	<b>825</b>	5,651
Over 3-day injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	<b>524.9</b>	502.9

## Types of Accidents

NSCC collects information on the types of accidents that are occurring to its Specialist Contractors in accordance with RIDDOR.

The five most common types of major and over 3-day accidents, which represent over 75% of all accidents occurring to NSCC Specialist Contractors, are shown in the table below.

Accident Type	Major	Over 3-Day	Total
Handling, lifting or carrying	15.2%	30.1%	26.5%
Slips and trips	25.1%	24.3%	24.5%
Falls from height	20.6%	9.8%	12.0%
Hit by moving/ falling object	10.3%	7.4%	8.0%
Contact with machinery	6.6%	4.3%	4.8%

Injuries resulting from either handling, lifting or carrying or slips and trips continue to be the most prevalent type of accident amongst Specialist Contractors. However, both are down slightly on 2008/09 when 28% of accidents were caused by handling and 25% by slips and trips.

Handling and slips and trips are the most common types of injuries across all industries in the UK as well as the construction sector as a whole.

Construction accounted for 35% of all injuries involving high falls, 25% involving electricity, 15% explosions and 15% collapses.

## Next Year's Survey – 2010/11

From 1 April 2011, NSCC Specialist Contractors will be able to submit their accident statistics for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 via the NSCC website at [www.nscc.org.uk](http://www.nscc.org.uk).

Companies can enter their figures in less than 5 minutes by clicking on 'NSCC Accident Survey' on the homepage and following the onscreen instructions.

By submitting their accident statistics each year, NSCC members can help NSCC to demonstrate to clients and other interested parties that they have a better safety record than non-members.

## Appendix A

### NSCC member organisations that provided accident information in 2009/10

NSCC Member Organisation
Association of Concrete Industrial Flooring Contractors (ACIFC)
Association of Interior Specialists (AIS)
Association of Sealant Applicators Ltd (ASA)
Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP)
Association of Specialist Underpinning Contractors <i>plus</i> (ASUC <i>plus</i> )
Association of Technical Lightning & Access Specialists (ATLAS)
British Blind & Shutter Association (BBSA)
British Drilling Association (BDA)
British Geomembrane Association (BGA)
Confederation of Construction Specialists (CCS)
Catering Equipment Distributors Association (CEDA)
Contract Flooring Association (CFA)
Concrete Structures Group (CONSTRUCT)
Concrete Repair Association (CRA)
Drilling & Sawing Association (DSA)
Fall Arrest Safety Equipment Training (FASET)
Federation of Building Specialist Contractors (FBSC)
Resin Flooring Association (FeRFA)
Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS)
Glass & Glazing Federation (GGF)
Insulated Render & Cladding Association (INCA)
Mastic Asphalt Council (MAC)
National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC)
National Federation of Terrazzo Marble & Mosaic Specialists (NFTMMS)
Painting & Decorating Association (PDA)
Rural & Industrial Design & Building Association (RIDBA)
Specialist Access Engineering and Maintenance Association (SAEMA)
Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA)
Steel Window Association (SWA)
The Tile Association (TTA)

## Appendix B

### Changes in response to NSCC Accident Survey

Year	No. of companies that responded	Average rate of response from NSCC members	% increase on previous year's rate
2009/10	2,963	53.4%	9%
2008/09	2,995	49.2%	28%
2007/08	2,269	38.3%	- 1%
2006/07	2,477	38.8%	11%
2005/06	2,117	35.0%	47%
2004/05	1,610	23.8%	113%
2003/04	755	11.2%	N/A

## Appendix C

### Changes in workforce included in NSCC Accident Survey

Year	Total no. of operatives	% directly employed	% labour only sub-contractors	% increase on previous year
2009/10	157,190	70	30	14%
2008/09	137,296	74	26	22%
2007/08	112,860	71	29	16%
2006/07	97,579	75	25	27%
2005/06	76,565	78	22	32%
2004/05	58,212	93	7	111%
2003/04	27,574	81	19	N/A

## Appendix D

### Changes in the NSCC accident incidence rates

Year	Fatal injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	Major injury rate (per 100,000 workers)	Over 3-day injury rate (per 100,000 workers)
2009/10	0.6	163.5	524.9
2008/09	1.5	309.6	753.1
2007/08	2.7	217.1	879.9
2006/07	1.0	255.2	1012.5
2005/06	2.6	269.1	1256.4
2004/05	1.7	396.8	1355.4
2003/04	3.6	359.0	1225.8

## Appendix E

### Comparison of NSCC and industry accident incidence rates

