

# **NSCC**

# **Accident Survey Report**

# **2010/11**



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## Introduction

The National Specialist Contractors' Council (NSCC) is committed 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 2010 to 31 March 2011.

## NSCC Members

Thirty-one (31) NSCC member organisations provided accident information as part of the NSCC survey (see appendix A). Almost two thirds (19) obtained a response from more than 50% of their members with 11 recording a 100% response. The average response rate from member organisations was **49.8%** compared with 53.4% in 2009/10 (appendix B). In total, **2,527** 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 and NSCC will continue working with its member organisations in 2011/12 to improve on the success of this year's survey.

As a result of the recession there has been a significant fall in the size of the specialist workforce. **98,317** operatives were included within the 2010/11 survey compared to 157,190 in the previous year (appendix C). **71.9% (70,731)** of the operatives included in this year's survey were direct employees and **28.1% (27,586)** were labour only sub-contractors.

## Executive Summary

The results of the NSCC Accident Survey for 2010/11 show that the fatal and major incidence rates have risen slightly on the previous year's results.

However, both are lower than that of the wider construction industry. In construction in 2010/11, there were 50 fatalities at a rate of **2.3 per 100,000 workers**. NSCC members recorded one fatality during this period giving an NSCC rate of **1.0 per 100,000 workers**. The major injury rate across the industry was **173.2 per 100,000 workers** compared with the NSCC rate of **168.8 per 100,000 workers**.

The NSCC over 3-day injury rate increased to **639.8 per 100,000 workers** from 524.9 per 100,000 workers the previous year.

NSCC received responses from over 2,500 Specialist Contractors employing almost 100,000 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 (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 NSCC injury figures for 2010/11 are shown in the table below.

|                              | Fatal injuries | Major injuries | Over 3-day injuries |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Employees</b>             | 1              | 125            | 541                 |
| <b>Self-employed</b>         | 0              | 41             | 88                  |
| <b>Members of the public</b> | 0              | 3              | N/A                 |

Unfortunately, the NSCC figures for this year include one fatality where an operative was electrocuted after coming into contact with overhead electricity lines whilst using a scissor lift. This reflects the on-going risks of 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) have produced guides on managing the use of mobile elevating work platforms ([www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cis58.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cis58.pdf)) and avoiding danger from overhead electric power lines ([www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/qs6.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/qs6.pdf)).

## Injury Incidence Rates

In order to compare the figures for 2010/11 with those from previous NSCC surveys and the statistics published by the HSE, NSCC has calculated injury incidence rates as follows:

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

### Fatal injury rate 2010/11

|   | <b>NSCC</b> | Industry* |
|---|-------------|-----------|
| No. of fatal injuries                   | <b>1</b>    | 50        |
| Fatal injury rate (per 100,000 workers) | <b>1.0</b>  | 2.3       |

### Major injury rate 2010/11

|   | <b>NSCC</b>  | Industry* |
|---|--------------|-----------|
| No. of major injuries                   | <b>166</b>   | 2,298     |
| Major injury rate (per 100,000 workers) | <b>168.8</b> | 173.2     |

### Over 3-day injury rate 2010/11

|  | <b>NSCC</b>  | Industry* |
|--|--------------|-----------|
| No. of over 3-day injuries                   | <b>629</b>   | 4,784     |
| Over 3-day injury rate (per 100,000 workers) | <b>639.8</b> | 360.5     |

\* HSE figures refer to direct employees only.

Unfortunately, NSCC recorded higher injury incidence rates across all three categories in 2010/11 compared with the previous year. However, over the last eight years, the NSCC fatality rate has fallen by 72%, the major injury rate by 52%, and the over 3-day rate by 47%. A full list of historical NSCC injury incidence rates can be found at appendix D.

NSCC has compared its injury rates with those of the industry; however, caution should be exercised when considering the results as it is believed that the injury 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).

Over the last five years, the average NSCC fatal injury rate has been 1.36 per 100,000 workers compared to 2.5 per 100,000 workers for the wider construction industry. The NSCC 5-year average for major and over 3-day injuries are 222.8 per 100,000 workers compared to 217.6 per 100,000 workers for the industry and 762.0 per 100,000 workers compared to 444.5 per 100,000 workers for the industry respectively.

## Types of Accidents

NSCC collects information on the types of accidents occurring to its Specialist Contractors that result in a reportable injury under 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 | 12.4% | 26.7%      | 23.7% |
| Slips and trips               | 21.3% | 21.1%      | 21.2% |
| Falls from height             | 24.9% | 8.4%       | 12.3% |
| Hit by moving/ falling object | 10.3% | 7.4%       | 11.6% |
| Contact with machinery        | 17.1% | 10.1%      | 6.8%  |

Injuries resulting from handling, lifting or carrying and slips and trips continue to be the most prevalent types of accident amongst Specialist Contractors. However, both are down slightly on 2009/10 when 26.5% of accidents were caused by handling and 24.5% by slips and trips.

## The Construction Industry Profile

5% of employees in Britain are engaged in construction occupations. The construction industry accounts for 6% of all reported injuries to employees in the workplace but 27% of deaths, 9% of major injuries and 6% of over-3-day injuries.

In 2010/11, the most common kinds of reported injuries to employees across all industries occurred as a result of handling (31%) or slips and trips (27%). In construction, handling accounted for 28% and slips and trips accounted for 23% of all reported injuries.

Construction accounted for 26% of all reported injuries involving high falls, 29% of collapses, 25% of drownings/asphyxiations, 16% of injuries involving electricity and 16% of explosions.

## Changes to RIDDOR

Following a consultation by the HSE in 2011 on extending the period before an injury needs to be reported; from 6 April 2012, businesses will only be required to report injuries which result in employees having over seven days off work, replacing the current requirement to report injuries resulting in over three days off work. Injuries lasting over three days would still continue to be recorded in accident books.

The period within which companies must notify non-fatal or non-major RIDDOR-reportable injuries will also increase from 10 to 15 days after the accident.

## Next Year's Survey – 2011/12

From 1 April 2012, NSCC Specialist Contractors will be able to submit their accident statistics for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 via the NSCC website at [www.nsc.org.uk](http://www.nsc.org.uk).

Companies can enter their figures in less than 5 minutes by clicking on the NSCC Accident Survey link in the 'Latest Updates' box 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 2010/11

| NSCC member organisation   |
|--|
| Association of Concrete Industrial Flooring Contractors (ACIFC)                    |
| Association of Ductwork Contractors & Allied Services (ADCAS)                      |
| 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)                           |
| Road Safety Markings Association (RSMA)  |
| Specialist Access Engineering and Maintenance Association (SAEMA)                  |
| Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA)  |
| 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 |
|---------|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 2010/11 | 2,527                           | 49.8%                                      | -7%                                |
| 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 |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2010/11 | 98,317                  | 72                  | 28                            | -37%                        |
| 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 injury incidence rates

| Year    | Fatal injury rate<br>(per 100,000 workers) | Major injury rate<br>(per 100,000 workers) | Over 3-day injury rate<br>(per 100,000 workers) |
|---------|--|--|---|
| 2010/11 | 1.0  | 168.8                                      | 639.8   |
| 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 injury incidence rates

