

SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS ON THE LEVEL

SUMMARY

1. Trips, slips and falls are the most important cause of major injuries in shipyards and boatyards.

BACKGROUND

2. In the 4 year period 1997 to 2001 accidents involving slips, trips and falls on the level accounted for approximately 25% of all major injuries in shipyards and boatyards (data for 2001/02 is not yet available). This type of accident must therefore be tackled if the Revitalising Target of reducing major injuries by 10% by 2010 is to be met. To assist with this a working party was formed to redraft the SSA Housekeeping guidance. It was planned to circulate a copy of the revised guidance at the 46th meeting, unfortunately this has not been possible. A copy of the revised guidance will though be ready in time for the April meeting.

3. An analysis has been conducted of F2508s received from shipyards and boatyards between April 2001 and September 2002 reporting accidents involving slips, trips and falls on the level. Accidents involving twist injuries (i.e. twisted ankles, knees etc.) have also been included as they are very similar to trip accidents. In the case of the former the injury is typically sustained when a person steps onto an item rather than tripping over it. The results of the analysis (attached to this paper) will be included in the revised SSA housekeeping guidance.

ACTION

4. Members are asked to:

a) note the contents of the attached tables including:

- the broadly equal split between the number of accidents occurring on vessels and those occurring elsewhere in the yard;
- the number of accidents occurring onboard involving slips significantly outnumbering those involving trips;
- the large number of slips and trips associated with gaining access/egress including the use of steps/stairs, ladders, ramps, gangways and vehicles; and
- the significant number of accidents caused by a failure to keep walkways clear.

b) ensure that the measures they have in place to prevent this kind of accident take account of the above issues.

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING SLIPS/TRIPS/TWISTS AND FALLS ON THE LEVEL IN SHIP/BOAT YARDS APRIL 2001 TO SEPTEMBER 2002

Accident kind	Site	Vessel	TOTAL
	Number		
Slip	52	62	114
Trip	42	29	71
Twist	17	13	30
Fall on same level	9	7	16
TOTAL	120	111	231

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING SLIPS - SITE		
Agent		Number
Steps/stairs (inc. getting on/off)		12
Ladders (inc. getting on/off)		2
Access ramps		2
Access steps to vehicles:		5
forklift truck	3	
misc.	2	
Contamination:		10
ice	3	
wet floor/surface	4	
misc.	3	
Miscellaneous:		16
pipes	3	
misc. items on floor	6	
misc.	7	
Unknown		5
TOTAL		52

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING SLIPS - VESSEL		
Agent		Number
Steps/stairs (inc. getting on/off)		9
Ladders (inc. getting on/off)		8
Gangway		6
Contamination:		8
oil	3	
misc.	5	
Miscellaneous:		6
pipes	2	
misc.	4	
Ship structure:		9
uneven flooring	2	
floor bearings	3	
misc.	4	

Overbalanced	5
Unknown	11
TOTAL	62

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING TRIPS - SITE	
Agent	Number
Fixed item:	12
rail tracks	4
misc.	8
Moveable item on floor	16
Cables on floor:	4
power cable	3
air line	1
Steps/stairs (inc. getting on/off)	2
Miscellaneous	4
Unknown	4
TOTAL	42

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING TRIPS - VESSEL	
Agent	Number
Fixed item:	4
Moveable item on floor	6
Cables on floor:	10
electric supply cable	2
welding cables/hoses	3
not specified	5
Ladder (inc. getting on/off)	2
Gangway (inc. getting on/off)	5
Unknown	2
TOTAL	29

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING TWISTING (ankle/knee) - SITE	
Agent	Number
Uneven ground	4
Rubble on road	2
Uncovered drain/gutter	2
Miscellaneous	5
Unknown	4
TOTAL	17

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING TWISTING (ankle/knee) – VESSEL	
Agent	Number
Gangway (inc. getting on/off)	2
Ship fitting	2
Miscellaneous	9
TOTAL	13

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING FALLS ON LEVEL – SITE	
Agent	Number
Unprotected hole	2
Overbalanced	3
Miscellaneous	1
Unknown	3
TOTAL	9

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING FALLS ON LEVEL – VESSEL	
Agent	Number
Inadequately protected open aperture	4
Miscellaneous	3
TOTAL	7

COMMON AGENTS OF ACCIDENTS	
Agent	Number of all accidents
Ladder (inc. getting on/off)	12
Gangway (inc. getting on/off)	13
Cables	14
Steps/stairs (inc. getting on/off)	23
TOTAL	62

COMMON LOCATIONS OF SITE ACCIDENTS	
Location	Number of accidents
Dry dock (inc. dockside)	7
Fabrication shop	13
TOTAL	20