

# **ACCIDENTS IN THE DOCKS INDUSTRY**

**An analysis of statistics from  
2005/06 to 2007/2008p**

**DECEMBER 2008**

This report on accident trends in the docks industry was produced by the HSE Transportation Section using official HSE RIDDOR statistics for Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes for the water transport industries

January 2009

# ACCIDENTS IN THE DOCKS INDUSTRY, 2005 – 2008p

## 1 Introduction

This paper examines the accidents in the docks industry over a three-year period from 2005/06 to 2007/08p (provisional). The data represents accidents and ill health reported to HSE under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. The analysis is divided by Standard Industrial Classifications as defined in 2003 (SIC), and focuses on four main industry categories (to SIC 4 digit level) either independently or as combined totals.

The data is based on accidents from the following SIC codes:

- 6110, which includes passenger and freight transport by sea and coastal waters
- 6120, transport by inland waterways
- 6322, includes activities related to water transport of passengers, animals or freight
- 6311, cargo handling (care to be taken with these figures as they include loading and unloading of goods or passengers' luggage irrespective of the mode of transport used as well as stevedoring)

## 2 Historical information

The docks industry has always been considered to be one of the most dangerous in the UK, and statistics showing the number of fatalities goes back to 1896 when there were 71 deaths. In the 1950s and 1960s the number of fatalities in the industry was consistently very high at between 40 and 60 every year when the industry was regulated by the old Factories Acts.

The reporting of injuries changed substantially in 1985 following the implementation of RIDDOR, and there have been some changes to RIDDOR and SIC codes since then which can make year on year comparisons difficult. In 1996/97 there were a total of 781 reported injuries (including 6 fatalities) assigned to ports. The numbers of reportable injuries in recent years are still showing at between 800 and 900 every year.

## 3 Current performance

Table 3.1 shows the combined accident figures for the 4 SIC codes above by severity over the three-year period, including the latest figures published for 2007/08p. These include a small number of accidents to members of the public, 41 over the three years (including 1 fatality), and 17 to self employed (though no fatalities). There seems to have been an increase in total accident numbers, though a large proportion of this appears to be related to SIC 6311 Cargo handling, which covers all modes of transport.

Table 3.2 shows the same period, this time for cargo handling (SIC 6311) separately - the 'Majors' includes 2 members of the public during the 3 years.

Table 3.3 shows the same period, this time for activities related to water transport of passengers, animals or freight (SIC 6322) – the 'Majors' includes 25 members of the public during the 3 years.

Tables 3.2 and 3.3 shown separately as c.84% of docks-related accidents occur in these 2 SIC code areas.

**Table 3.1**

<b>Docks RIDDOR statistics</b>			
	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08p</b>
<b>Fatal</b>	0	4	<b>3</b>
<b>Major</b>	155	142	<b>174</b>
<b>Over 3 day</b>	709	742	<b>751</b>
<b>Total</b>	864	888	<b>928</b>

**Table 3.2**

<b>Cargo Handling (SIC 6311 only)</b>			
<b>Accident type</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08p</b>
<b>Fatal</b>	0	1	<b>1</b>

## ACCIDENTS IN THE DOCKS INDUSTRY, 2005 – 2008p

<b>Major</b>	51	43	<b>62</b>
<b>Over-3-Day</b>	338	369	<b>414</b>
<b>Total</b>	389	413	<b>477</b>

**Table 3.3**

<b>Other supporting water transport activities (SIC 6322 only)</b>			
<b>Accident type</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08p</b>
<b>Fatal</b>	0	3	<b>0</b>
<b>Major</b>	68	59	<b>76</b>
<b>Over-3-Day</b>	260	259	<b>240</b>
<b>Total</b>	328	321	<b>316</b>

### 3 Fatal accidents in 2007- 2008p

There have been 3 fatal accidents in this year, one each in SIC codes 6110, 6120 (member of the public), and 6311. Causes were:

- Physical assault (SIC 6110)
- Drowned or asphyxiated (SIC 6120, member of the public)
- Fall (SIC 6311)

### 4 Main Causes of Accidents 2007/08p

Because SIC 6311 deals with cargo handling in all modes of transport this section reports SIC 6311 separate to SIC groups 6110, 6120 and 6322.

#### 4.1 Major and Over 3 Day accidents in SIC codes 6110, 6120 and 6322

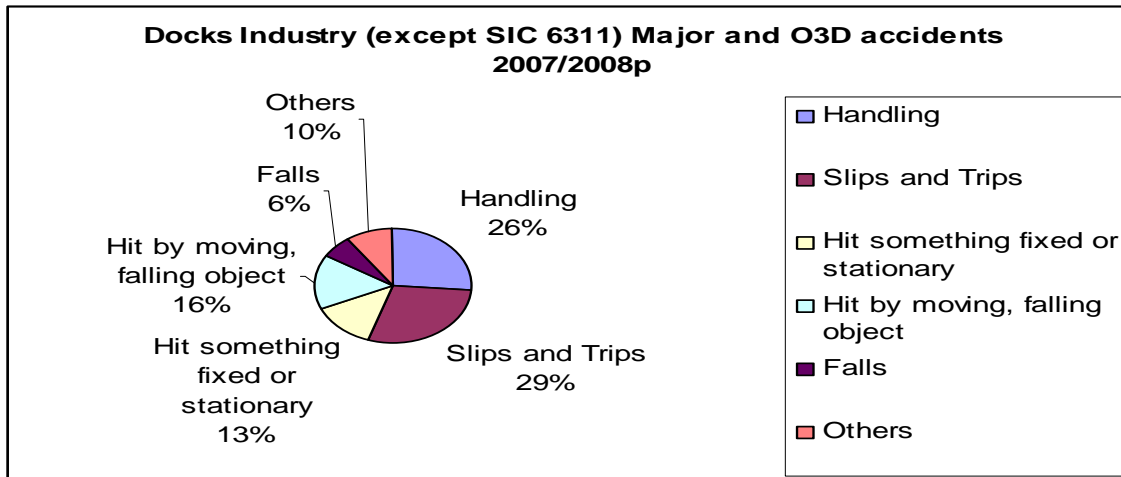
Chart 4.1.1 provides full details of the latest figures by accident KIND code.

- 82% of major injuries arise from 4 main causes: slips and trips, 40%; hit by moving or falling object, 22%; falls, 11%; and handling, 9%.
- 87% of the over 3 day injuries arise from 4 main causes: handling, 32%; slips and trips, 25%; hit by something fixed or stationary, 16%; and hit by moving or falling object, 14%;

**Chart 4.1.1**

<b>Major and Over 3 day accidents in the following SIC groups - 6110, 6120 and 6322</b>						
<b>Kind</b>	<b>2005/2006</b>		<b>2006/2007</b>		<b>2007/2008p</b>	
	<b>Major</b>	<b>Over 3 Day</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Over 3 Day</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Over 3 Day</b>
Handling	13	122	17	120	9	107
Slips and Trips	21	91	26	100	42	83
Hit something fixed or stationary	6	42	5	53	5	54
Hit by moving, falling object	16	47	13	47	23	47
Falls	20	29	14	13	11	17
Others	10	40	12	40	14	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>337</b>

## ACCIDENTS IN THE DOCKS INDUSTRY, 2005 – 2008p



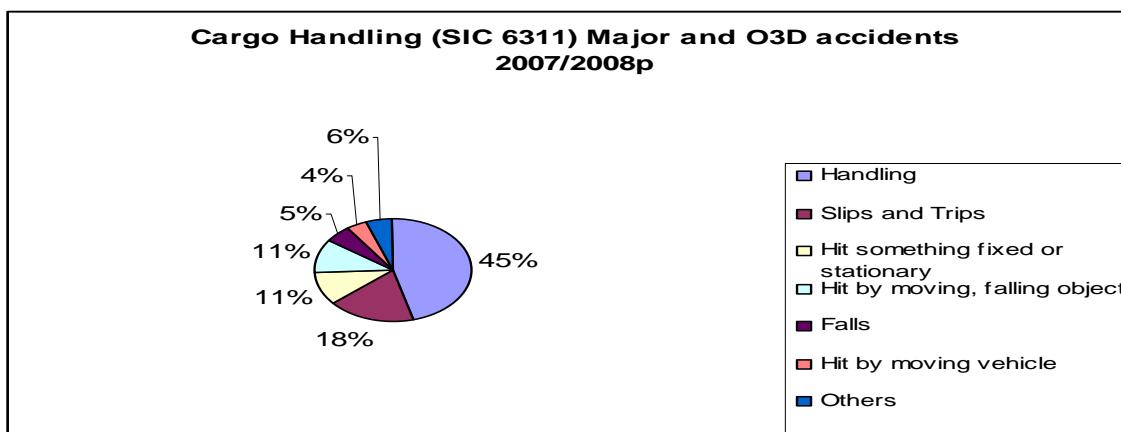
### 4.2 Major and Over 3 Day accidents in SIC codes 6311 (cargo handling)

Chart 4.2.1 provides full details of the latest figures by accident KIND code.

- 78% of major injuries arise from 4 main causes: slips and trips, 26%; hit by moving or falling object, 21%; falls, 16%; and handling, 15%.
- 87% of the over 3 day injuries arise from 4 main causes: handling, 50%; slips and trips, 16%; hit by something fixed or stationary, 12%; and hit by moving or falling object, 9%;

**Chart 4.2.1**

<b>Major and Over 3 day accidents in SIC 6311 (cargo handling - these statistics include other industries such as road and air transport)</b>						
Kind	2005/2006		2006/2007		2007/2008p	
	Major	Over 3 Day	Major	Over 3 Day	Major	Over 3 Day
Handling	11	163	6	203	9	208
Slips and Trips	17	54	12	44	16	68
Hit something fixed or stationary	3	33	1	35	3	48
Hit by moving, falling object	10	38	8	43	13	38
Falls	4	13	4	12	10	16
Hit by moving vehicle	1	16	7	12	5	14
Others	5	21	4	20	5	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>414</b>

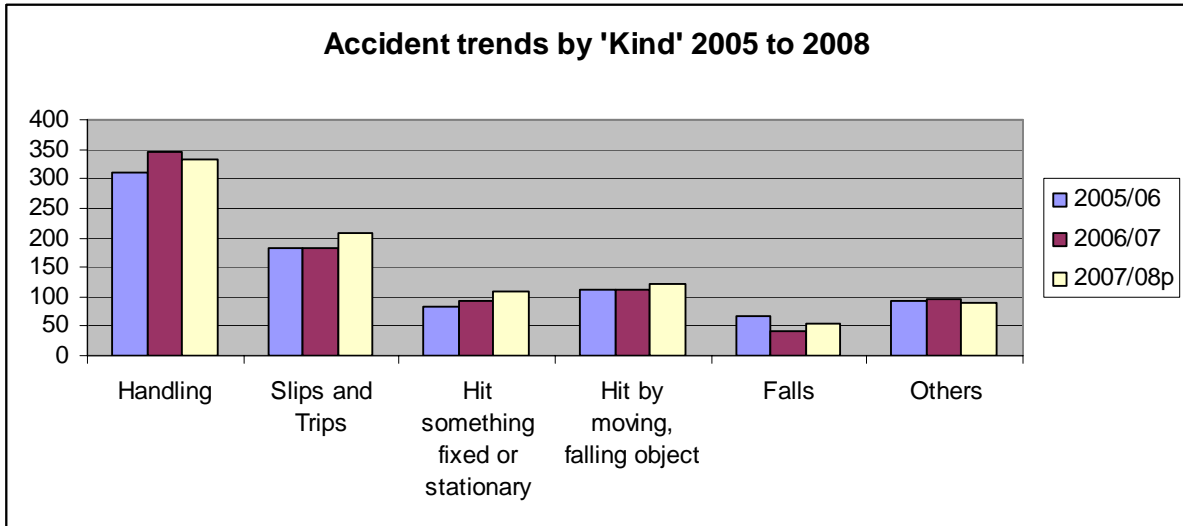


# ACCIDENTS IN THE DOCKS INDUSTRY, 2005 – 2008p

## 5 Trends in Accidents

Chart 5.1 shows the combined 'major' and 'over 3 day' trends over the last 3 years by 'Kind' of injury. 'Handling' and 'Slips and trips' are consistently the major causes, and in 2007/08 accounted for 59% of all accidents. This was similar in 2005/06 and 2006/07 accounting for 58% and 61% respectively.

**Chart 5.1**



## 6 Enforcement Notices and Prosecutions

Chart 6.1 shows the number of prohibition and improvement notices issued in the docks industries over the last 3 years. Similarly Chart 6.2 indicates the number of convictions in the docks industry, together with the total fines imposed by the courts over the last 3 years

**Chart 6.1**

Immediate Prohibition Notices	SIC	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08p	Total
	6110	3		1	4
	6120				0
	6311	4	11	1	16
	6322	3	2	1	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>

Improvement Notices	SIC	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08p	Total
	6110	2	0	2	4
	6120		1		1
	6311	4	9	5	18
	6322	3	4	5	12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>					
		<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>61</b>

## ACCIDENTS IN THE DOCKS INDUSTRY, 2005 – 2008p

Chart 6.2

Proceedings instituted by HSE in dock industries by SIC 611, 612, 631 and 632				
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08p	Total
SIC 611				
Convictions				0
SIC 611 Total				
Fines (£)				0
SIC 612				
Convictions				0
SIC 612 Total				
Fines (£)				0
SIC 631				
Convictions	3		7	10
SIC 631 Total				
Fines (£)	60000		17500	77500
SIC 632				
Convictions	1	2	1	4
SIC 632 Total				
Fines (£)	12500	100000	1000	113500

## 7 Conclusions

Total accidents for the docks industry (excluding SIC 6311) have dropped by 4.5%, but there does seem to have been an increase of major injuries against a slight drop in Over 3 day reports.(Chart 4.1.1).

Whilst accidents in cargo handling (SIC 6311 which includes other types such as air transport) have increased by 15%, a positive outcome is that the figures do clearly indicate where progress can be made. The main 'kind' of injury where increases have been seen are: -

- 'Slips and trips' (up by 50% on 2006/07)
- 'Hit by something fixed or stationary' (up by 42% on 2006/07)
- 'Falls (up by 62% on 2006/07).

Injury rates remain at a high level.

These figures suggest that priority areas of attention for the industry should be 'handling' and 'slips and trips'.

While HSE RIDDOR data can provide a general overview of trends, it is only by more detailed analysis of accident and incident data by the industry itself that the underlying causes of accidents can be identified, and action taken to reduce risks.