

Revised incident selection criteria 2005

Criteria for selection for investigation of RIDDOR notifications (except gas incidents reported under Reg 6(1) and 6(2))

1. Fatalities

All fatalities as a result of an incident arising out of or in connection with work activities. This specifically excludes suicides* and deaths from natural causes.

*In some circumstances e.g. in health or social care, the risk of suicide may arise from the work activity. In which case HSC/E guidance on the application of HSWA section 3 should be applied.

2. Major injuries

The following major injuries to all persons, including non-employees, irrespective of cause:

1. all amputations of digit(s) past the first joint;
2. amputation of hand/arm or foot/leg;
3. serious multiple fractures (more than one bone, not including wrist or ankle);
4. crush injuries leading to internal organ damage, eg ruptured spleen;
5. head injuries involving loss of consciousness;
6. burns and scalds covering more than 10% of the surface area of the body;
7. permanent blinding of one or both eyes;
8. any degree of scalping; and
9. asphyxiations.

3. Occupational diseases

All reports of cases of occupational disease which meet the criteria of reportability under RIDDOR, except those arising from circumstances/situations which have already been investigated.

4. Breach of health and safety law

Any incident where there is likely to have been a serious breach of health and safety law, where, in accordance with the Enforcement Management Model, the national enforcement expectation would determine a notice or a prosecution.

5. Incidents arising from HSC's Strategic Priorities

A) Incident selection criteria for the strategic programmes under RIDDOR:

Falls from Height

All RIDDOR defined major injuries in the following occupations by Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 2000):

Electrical Fitter (5241), HGV Driver (8211), Labourer Other (9129), Other Storage Handler (9149) **and** involving one of the following agents by agent code:
Moveable ladder (1.16), Other HGV (7.28), Furniture (12.01), Stairs/Steps (1.08), Mobile Scaffold (1.14)

Musculo-skeletal disorders (MSD)

All RIDDOR-defined major injuries involving the back caused by handling, lifting, or carrying.

Notes

The incidents to be selected are those with an Incident Contact Centre reference number ending in a 0, 1 or 2.

Where the selection process identifies (concurrently or consecutively) more than one incident for the same employer, the Band 2 may substitute an incident from among those not selected for investigation.

Slips and Trips

RIDDOR-defined major injury incidents as a result of slips and trips on the level where poor maintenance and/or control of contamination (including water) is likely to be a causal factor and the incident occurred inside a building.

Notes

The Band 2 should select all incidents which fall within the kind of accident codes 0610 slip wet, 0620 slip dry and 0640 trip uneven.

To these, the above selection criteria should be applied and from this subset, those with an Incident Contact Centre reference number ending in a 0 or 1 should be selected for investigation. Where the selection process identifies (concurrently or consecutively) more than one incident for the same employer, the Band 2 may substitute an incident from among those not selected for investigation.

Workplace Transport

All incidents which result in a RIDDOR-defined major injury resulting from workplace transport except those reported as resulting from collapse of a vehicle during maintenance.

C) Additional strategic programme criteria

The selection criteria also encompass all incidents which result in a RIDDOR-defined major injury in the following categories:

1. electrical incidents
2. any incident which arose out of working in a confined space.

6 Serious concern

All incidents likely to give rise to serious concern. This reflects the views of the public at large not just those of an individual. Consider in particular:

1. Incidents involving children, vulnerable adults, and multiple casualties where the outcome or potential outcome is serious.
2. Dangerous occurrences with the potential for directly causing the death of anyone or major injuries to a number of people

B) Incident selection criteria covering major hazard precursor events:

- incidents that result in or have the potential for significant releases of dangerous substances
- incidents that could be precursors to major incidents
- incidents that indicate that duty holders are not adequately controlling major hazards.

Notes

These criteria are aligned with the aims of the major hazards strategic delivery programme, established to deliver PSA targets, which, with a 2001/02 baseline, aim by 2007/08 for a:

- 45% reduction in major and significant hydrocarbon releases in the offshore oil and gas sector
- 15% reduction in RIDDOR reportable dangerous occurrences in the onshore sector
- 7.5% reduction in the number of events reported by licence holders and judged by HSE's NII as having the potential to challenge a nuclear safety system

The range of potential precursor events is broad and it is important therefore that the selection criteria are not limiting, allowing the significance of each event to be judged based on its individual circumstances and characteristics.

It is also important that the trigger for investigation should not be wholly based on consequence (actual or potential) but also on the significance of the control measure failure that gave rise to the incident. This allows read across to other/common management controls that may be implicated.