

# Update to mapping health and safety standards in the UK waste industry

Prepared by **Noble Denton BOMEL Limited**  
for the Health and Safety Executive 2009

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Noble Denton BOMEL Limited  
Thames Central  
90 Hatfield Road  
Slough  
Berks SL1 1QE

This report describes an update to a previous study on the nature of the UK waste industry and its health and safety standards.

Employment figures were updated and it is estimated that around 176,000 people are employed in waste and recycling services in the UK in 2005/06. This employment figure was combined with updated accident numbers to reveal that the overall accident rate for workers in the waste industry has been decreasing recently.

High risk areas appeared to have remained relatively constant over the ten-year period. Industries providing general public services and sewage/refuse disposal remained significant. Handling sprains, trips and struck-by accidents were the most prolific types of accident. Occupations most likely to be involved in accidents were those related to refuse handling and driver jobs and individuals were likely to have been collecting or handling refuse when they had the accident.

Recommendations include understanding the impact of recycling, and the different profiles of over 3-day and major injury accidents, on the accident rates.

This report and the work it describes were funded by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Its contents, including any opinions and/or conclusions expressed, are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect HSE policy.

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*First published 2009*

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# CONTENTS

	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.2 CONTEXT OF THE STUDY	1
1.3 OBJECTIVES	1
1.4 SCOPE OF WORK	1
1.5 SCOPE OF UK WASTE INDUSTRY IN THIS REPORT	2
1.6 SCOPE OF THIS REPORT	2
<b>2. WASTE INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT FIGURES</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 INTRODUCTION	3
2.2 WASTE INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT DATA	3
<b>3. WASTE INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY DATA SET</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 RIDDOR ACCIDENT DATA	10
3.2 DEFINITION OF THE WASTE INDUSTRY DATA SET	14
3.3 WASTE INDUSTRY DATA SET	17
3.4 ACCIDENT RATES IN THE UK WASTE INDUSTRY	18
<b>4. ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES IN THE UK WASTE INDUSTRY</b>	<b>25</b>
4.1 INTRODUCTION	25
4.2 PRESENTATION OF THE ACCIDENT DATA	25
4.3 DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE RIDDOR ACCIDENT DATA	27
4.4 KEY RISK AREAS	45
4.5 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	66

<b>5.</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>72</b>























**Table 3** Estimated employment in the UK waste industry between 2001/02 and 2005/06

	<i>3710 : Recycling of metal waste and scrap</i>	<i>3720 : Recycling of non- metal waste and scrap</i>	<i>5157 : Wholesale of waste and scrap</i>	<i>9001 : Collection and treatment of sewage</i>	<i>9002 : Collection and treatment of other waste</i>	<i>9003 : Sanitation, remediation and similar activities</i>	<i>9000 : Sewage and refuse disposal etc</i>	<i>SUB TOTAL</i>	<i>Total water workers in UK*</i>	<i>4100 : Collection, purification and distribution of water</i>	<i>Number of water workers in SIC 9000</i>	<i>Revised private workers total</i>	<i>LA employees</i>	<i>GRAND TOTAL</i>
<b>2001/02a</b>	7,500	6,400	11,600	0	0	0	111,000	136,500	44,000	34,000	10,000	126,500	36,000	<b>162,500</b>
<b>2001/02b</b>	7,538	6,434	11,488	0	0	0	112,170	137,630	44,000	34,002	9,998	127,632	48,677	<b>176,309</b>
<b>2002/03</b>	7,197	6,674	11,199	0	0	0	93,854	118,924	42,250	34,180	8,070	110,854	51,702	<b>162,556</b>
<b>2003/04</b>	6,955	7,935	10,524	24,994	59,782	14,444	0	124,634	40,500	26,090	14,410	110,224	54,916	<b>165,140</b>
<b>2004/05</b>	7,216	8,810	10,102	23,079	62,402	13,300	0	124,909	38,750	24,589	14,161	110,748	58,329	<b>169,077</b>
<b>2005/06</b>	7,542	9,859	10,110	23,462	63,674	13,497	0	128,144	37,000	23,353	13,647	114,497	61,955	<b>176,452</b>











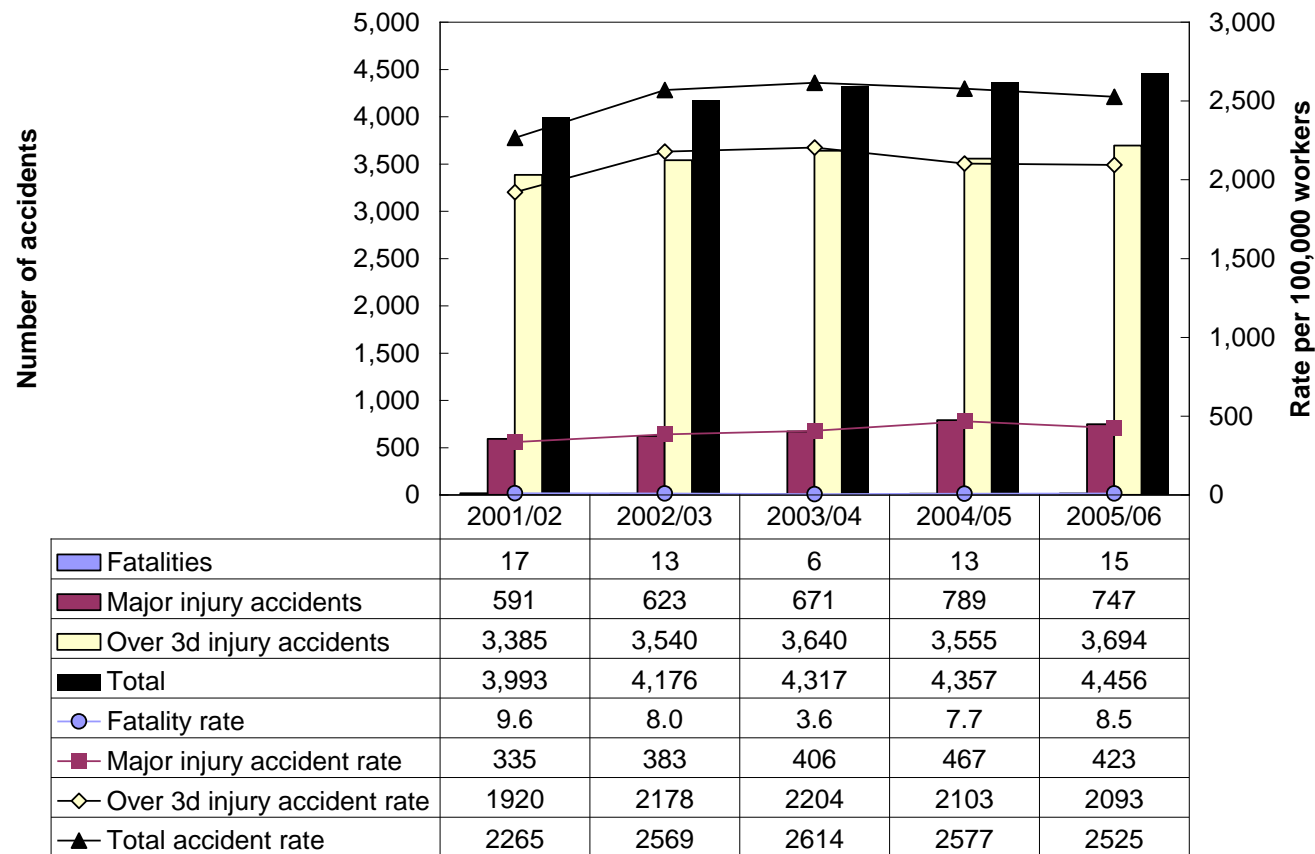








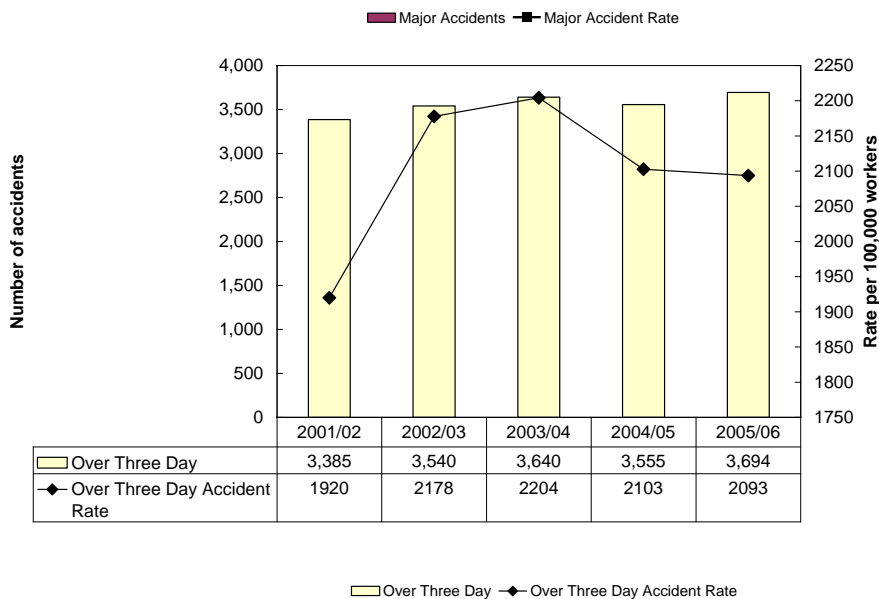
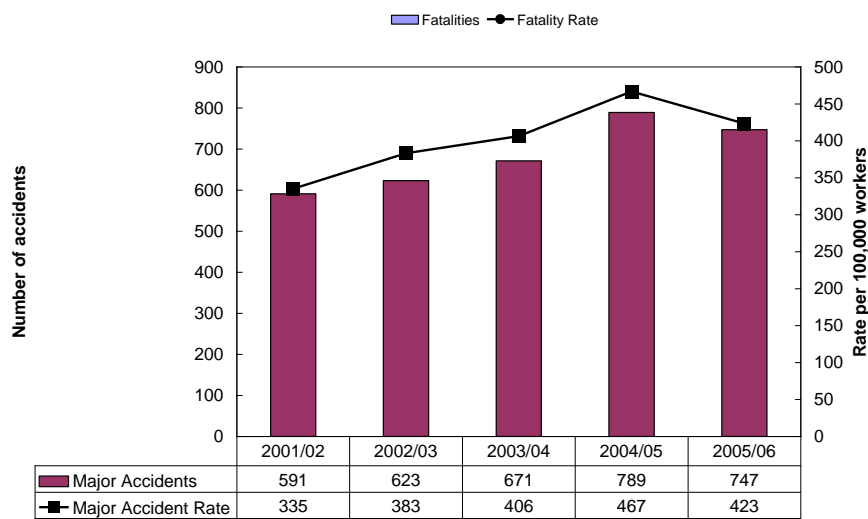
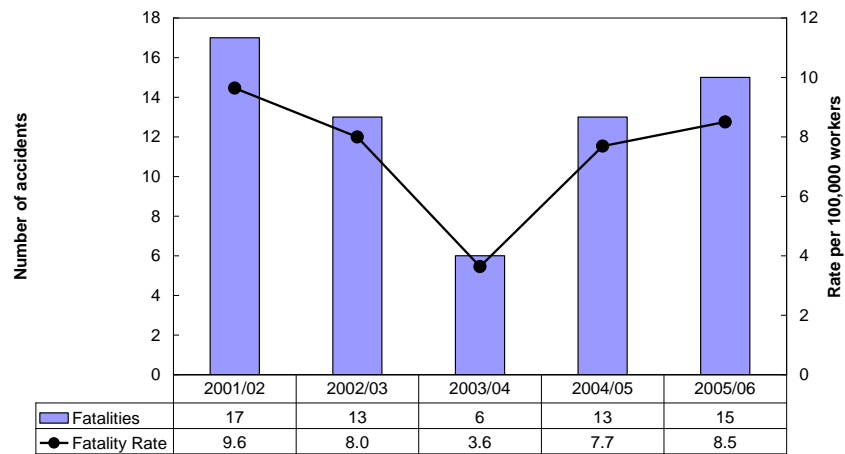




■ Fatalities                      ■ Major injury accidents                      ■ Over 3d injury accidents                      ■ Total  
● Fatality rate                      ■ Major injury accident rate                      ◇ Over 3d injury accident rate                      ▲ Total accident rate

**Figure 2** Accident rates for workers (employees and self-employed) in the UK waste industry from 2001/02 to 2005/06





**Figure 3** Fatal, major and over 3-day accident rates for workers (employees and self-employed) in the UK waste industry between 2001/02 and 2005/06







































































































