

Composites UK Health and Safety Report 2019

Key Statistics for the UK Composites Sector, 2019 H&S Report

- 70 accident returns, representing 4272 employees
- 0 fatal injuries to workers
- 30 RIDDOR accidents reported, resulting in 269 days lost
- 50 non-RIDDOR accidents reported, resulting in 121 days lost
- 467 minor accidents with no time lost
- 3181 days lost due to ill health

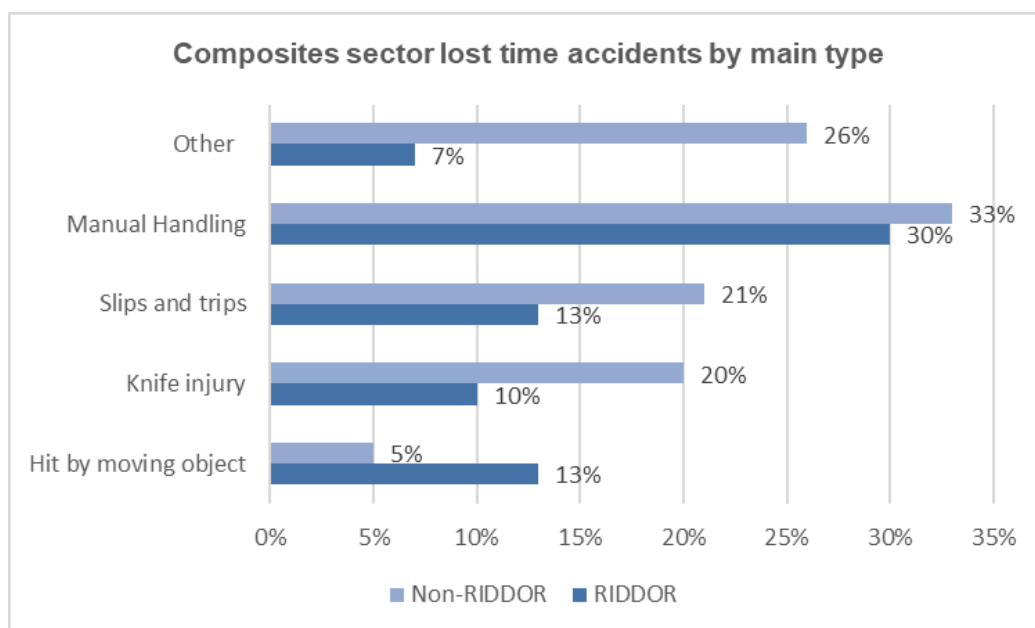
Main Accident Types in the UK Composites Sector 2019

Accident types shown account for the main causes of injuries in 2019, across all lost-time accidents:

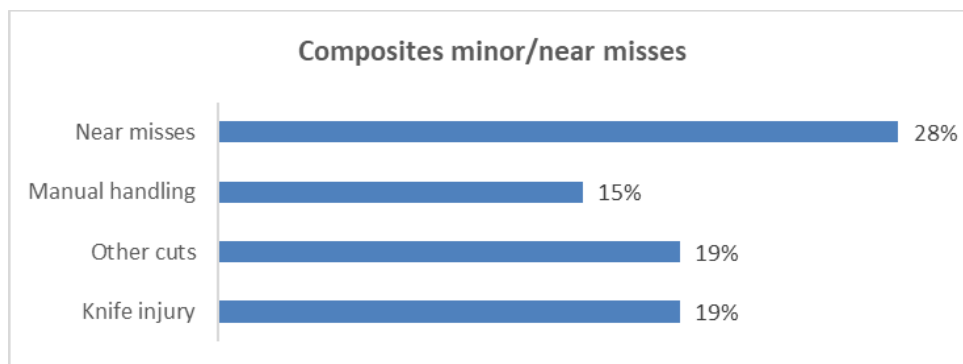
- RIDDOR (7+days lost time) – reportable accidents
- Non-RIDDOR (1+days lost time)

The main causes of accidents resulting in time lost at work are:

- Manual handling
- Slips and trips
- Knife injury
- Hit by moving object
- Other



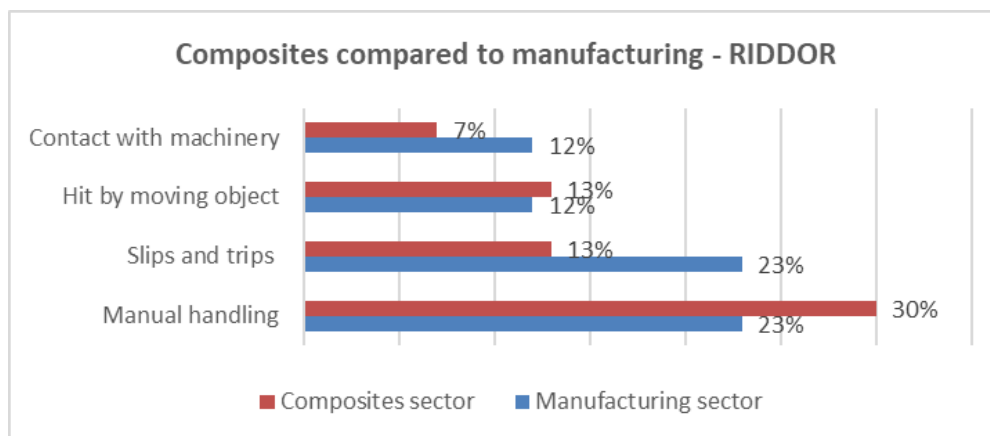
In addition, minor and near misses were recorded as follows:



Comparison with UK Manufacturing Sector

The data can be compared with the results for the UK manufacturing sector as a whole, which reports 4 main accident types under RIDDOR for 2019.

The composites sector has a lower proportion of machinery related accidents, although there is a higher proportion of knife injuries. This is not unexpected, given the nature of a large part of the sector.



Total RIDDOR accidents for the sector compare as follows (extrapolated results so treat with caution). These can be compared against data for previous years; against those reported for the manufacturing sector as a whole; and against the plastic industry (reported by BPF).

Year	Injury rate per 100,000 employees		
	Manufacturing	Plastics	Composites
2015	492	582	503
2016	466	615	176*
2017	471	676	521
2018	465	517	623
2019	468		632

It should be noted that the method of accident reporting was changed for the composites figures from 2018 onwards, so comparison over the 5-year period should be treated with caution.

* Very low number of returns so treat with caution

Composites sector – comparison with previous years:

Year	2015	2016*	2017	2018	2019
Responses	35	24	47	65	70
Total Employees	2179	1706	4028	4332	4272
Average days lost per employee	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.1
Fatal/Major accidents	1	0	6	8	3
All RIDDOR	11	3	21	27	27
Non-RIDDOR	167	49	289	79	50
Minor/near misses				390	467
All RIDDOR per 100000 employees	505	176	521	623	632
Reportable disease				2	1

It should be noted that the method of accident reporting was changed for the composites figures from 2018 onwards, so comparison over the 5-year period should be treated with caution.

* Very low number of returns so treat with caution

Accidents compared to company position in the supply chain

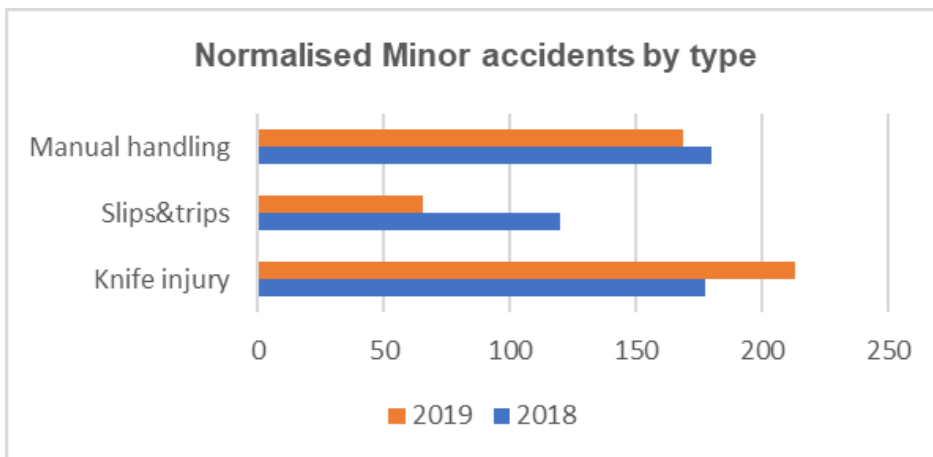
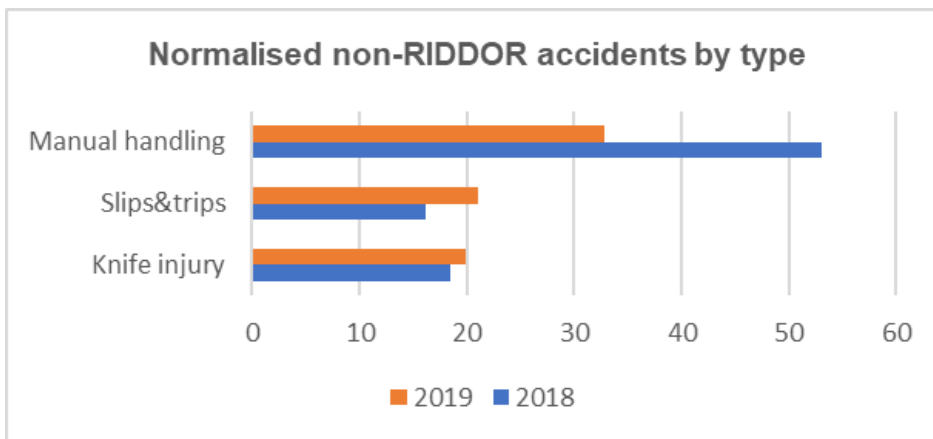
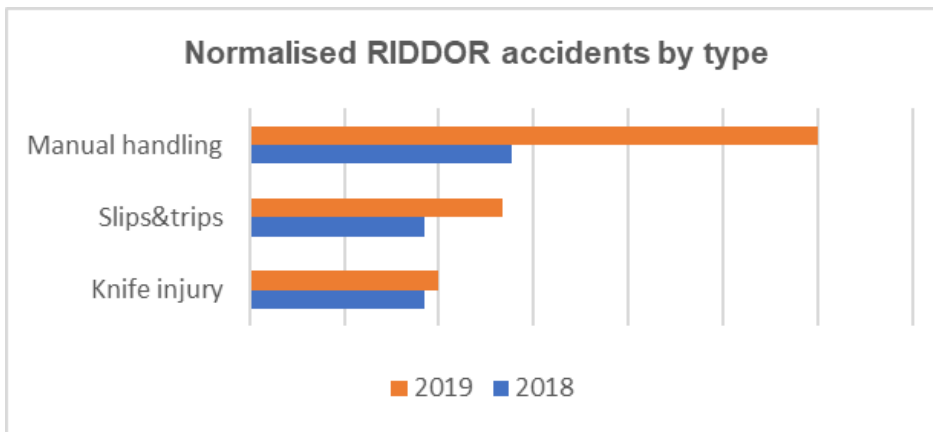
Company type	R&D	Consultant	Designer Engineer	Distributor	Equipment	Manufacturer	Material Supplier	Recycling	Testing	Training	Total
Total responses	2	2	4	5	1	47	5	1	2	1	70
Total employees	379	19	66	46	28	3397	209	88	35	5	4272
Major RIDDOR	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
All RIDDOR	0	0	0	0	0	26	3	1	0	0	27
Minor accidents	15	5	2	2	0	428	39	18	5	4	521
Days lost major	0	0	0	0	0	97	0	0	0	0	97
Days lost All RIDDOR	0	0	0	0	0	199	11	13	0	0	223
Reportable diseases	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

Delivery Against the 2018-21 SIMPLC Strategy and Composites UK Action Plan

The 2018-21 H&S strategy, and resulting Composites UK action plan, focused on supporting industry to reduce accidents in 3 key areas across the sector:

- Manual handling
- Slips and trips
- Knife injury

Comparison of normalised data for 2018 and 2019 against these 3 accident types is shown below.



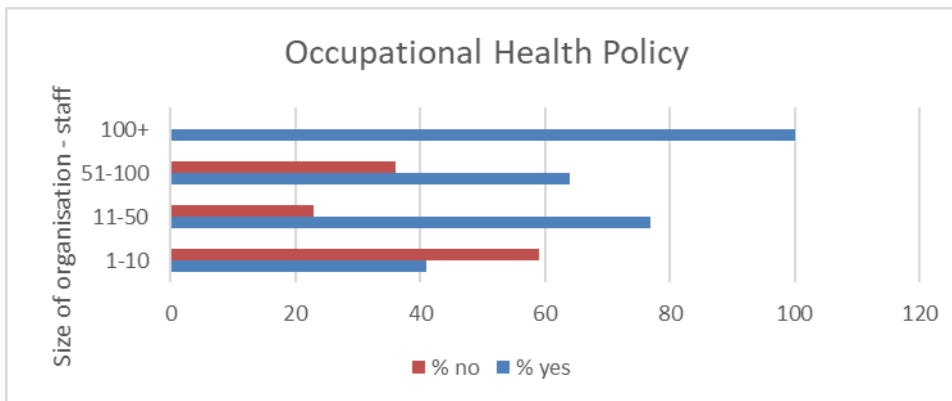
The figures will be monitored for 2020 before making any judgement as to whether the H&S campaigns in these areas have been effective. It is evident that there is still support needed by the sector in these key areas.

Policies and surveillance

Occupational Health Policy

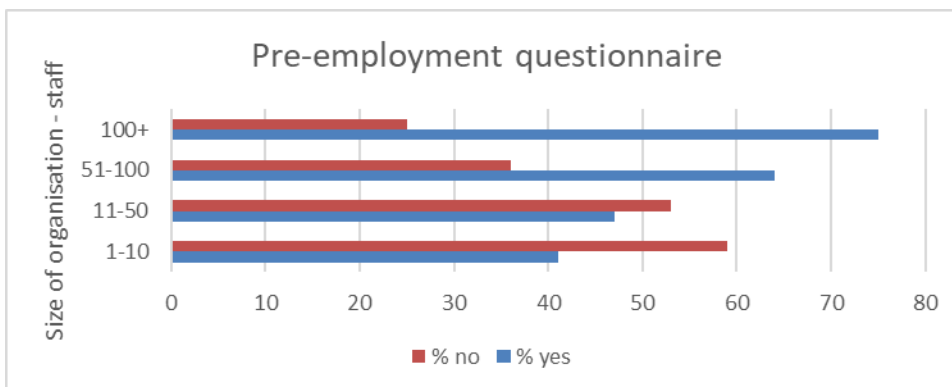
70% of respondents have an Occupational Health Policy.

100% of larger companies have a policy in place, compared to only 41% of companies under 10 staff.



Pre-employment questionnaire

53% of companies have a pre-employment questionnaire in place. The proportion with no questionnaire increases with decreasing size of organisation.



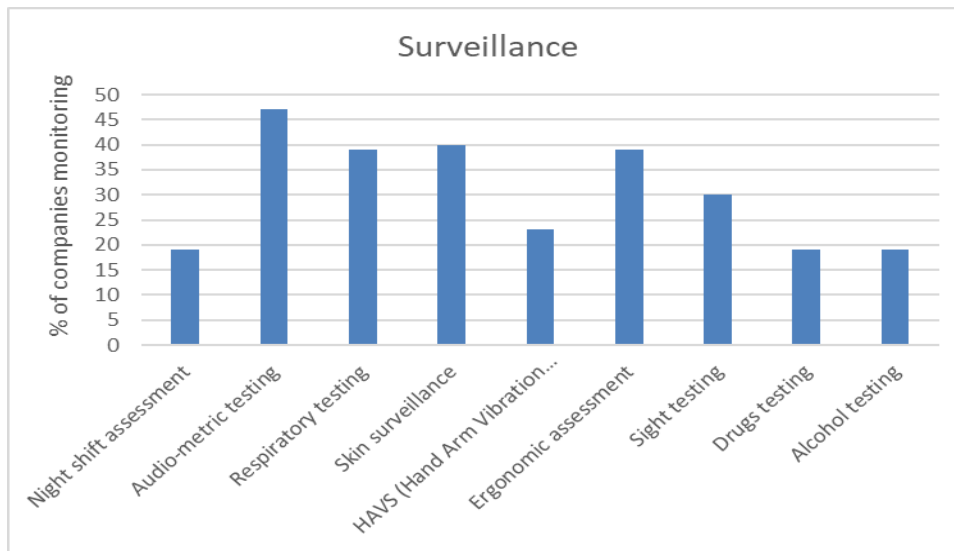
Stress management policy

29% of companies have a stress management policy in place. Again, a higher proportion of the larger organisations have a stress management policy compared to the smaller companies.



Surveillance

In order to start gathering benchmark data, respondents were asked to mark which criteria they monitored against. This is obviously dependent on the type of organisation and nature of the work being done there – not all criteria are relevant to all companies regardless of size.



Recommendations for 2020

It is crucial to raise awareness of the tools and information available to the sector that support the effective management of onsite health and safety. Composites UK should also investigate ways of providing more on-site support to members, through working with partners who could provide audits, H&S checks etc.

The following key actions can be taken now:

1. Provide information and support in the following key accident areas through webinars, social media campaigns:
 - Knife injuries
 - Handling and lifting
 - Slips and trips
2. Raise awareness of literature and tools for occupational health
3. Raise awareness of literature and tools for stress management at work
4. Promote the online H&S Management System and self-audit tool
5. Encourage sign up to the SIMPLC initiative

Addendum

COVID-19 hit the world in early 2020, and the focus of activities was to ensure that companies could continue to operate safely through the crisis; meeting new working arrangement requirements.

Many companies have closed during this period, so accident figures will be affected for 2020.

Guidance documents, templates and forms were developed to support the UK Composites Industry through this period. Focused COVID-19 webinars were held under the SIMPLC initiative.