

Health and Safety report for 2020 - summary

19 MAY 2021

Composites UK Health and Safety Summary Report for 2020

Key Statistics for the UK Composites Sector, 2020 H&S Report

- 105 accident returns, representing 5966 employees
- 0 fatal injuries to workers
- 26 RIDDOR accidents reported, resulting in 146 days lost
- 53 non-RIDDOR accidents reported, resulting in 85 days lost
- 431 minor accidents with no time lost
- 4585 days lost due to ill health

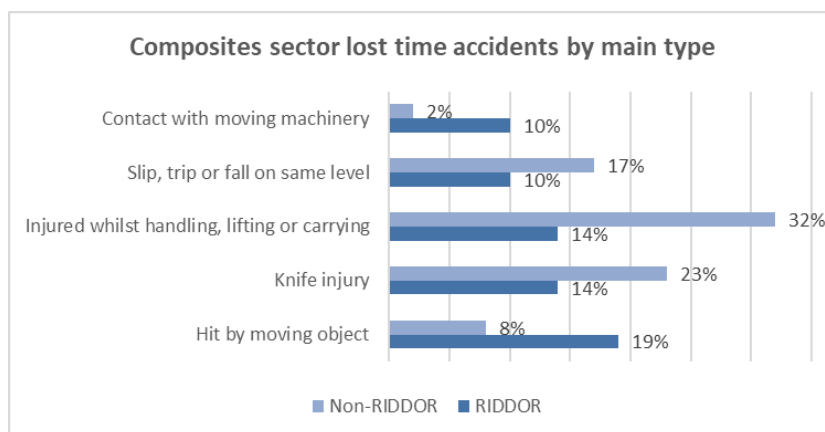
Main Accident Types in the UK Composites Sector 2020

Accident types shown account for the main causes of injuries in 2020, 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
- Knife injury
- Slips and trips
- Hit by moving object
- Contact with moving machinery

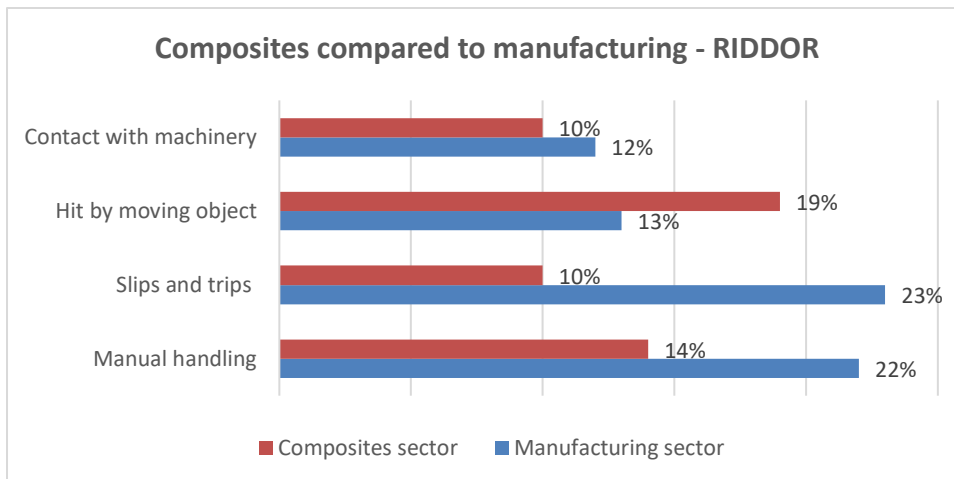


Comparison with UK Manufacturing Sector

The UK manufacturing sector accounts for around 9% of the workforce (around 3million employees). The sector reported 15 fatalities and 11,245 non-fatal (RIDDOR) injuries to employees in 2020.

Ref: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/manufacturing.pdf>

The UK manufacturing sector as a whole reports 4 main accident types under RIDDOR for 2020. Comparing this data with that for the composites sector it can be noted that the composites sector has a lower proportion of machinery, slips and trips, and manual handling related accidents although there is a higher proportion of knife injuries. This is not unexpected, given the nature of a large part of the composites sector.



Composites sector – comparison with previous years:

Year	2015	2016*	2017	2018	2019	2020**
Responses	35	24	47	65	70	105
Total Employees	2179	1706	4028	4332	4272	5966
Total Hours worked	3.7m	2.9m	6.7m	8.1m	6.7m	10m
Average days lost per employee	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.12	0.09	0.04
Major accidents	1	0	6	8	3	5
All RIDDOR	11	3	21	27	27	21
Non-RIDDOR	167	49	289	79	50	53
Minor/near misses				390	467	361
All RIDDOR per 100000 employees	505	176	521	623	632	352
All RIDDOR per 100000 hours	0.30	0.10	0.31	0.33	0.40	0.21
Reportable disease				2	1	10 (9xCOVID)

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 / ** year of COVID pandemic

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

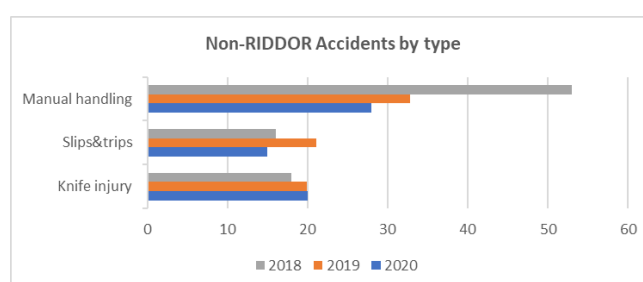
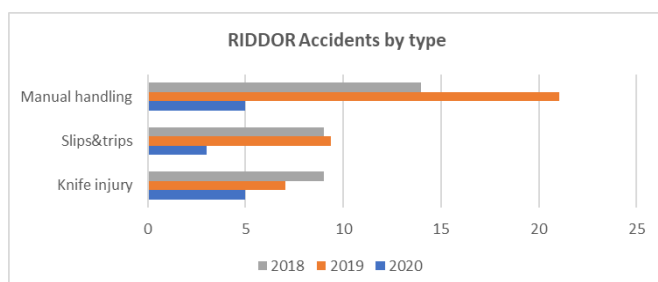
The 2018-21 SIMPLC H&S strategy, and resulting Composites UK action plan, focused on supporting industry to reduce accidents in 3 key areas across the sector:

- Manual handling
- Slips and trips
- Knife injury

This was done through e-communications, social media platforms (mainly twitter) and webinars.

Comparison of normalised data for 2018, 2019 and 2020 against these 3 accident types is shown below. The data shows a reduction in all 3 areas for RIDDOR accidents. The reduction for 2020 could have been due to extra measures put in place due to Covid-19 protocols.

Similar trends and reduction in accident rates are seen for Non-RIDDOR and minor accidents across all 3 categories.



Impact of Covid-10

Some businesses were forced to partially or fully close when the Covid pandemic hit in March 2020. Some businesses were able to continue operations with staff working from home, but others had to implement new operating practices to ensure the workforce remained safe e.g.

- One-way walkways around the building and shop floor
- Staggered shift patterns to reduce numbers on the shop floor to enable social distancing
- Increased use of PPE
- Majority of administrative workers working from home
- Additional risk assessments were carried out to ensure Covid guidelines were being met.

These measures have undoubtedly had a positive impact on reducing the number of accidents recorded in 2020.

Composites UK actions for 2021

As well as supporting members with guidance on the main accident areas, there should be an increased focus on raising awareness of mental health issues and how employers can recognise and manage issues. Covid-19 has impacted significantly on working practices and caused increased pressure across all sectors.

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. A H&S communications plan has been developed to ensure communication of relevant information on a regular basis. This will be sent to members via a new H&S monthly bulletin covering the following topics, which link to National initiatives:

- January – Accident reporting
- February – Managing stress in the workplace
- March – Risk assessments
- April – Stress management tools
- May – Mental health at work
- June – Workplace monitoring
- July – Pre-employment questionnaires
- August – Occupational health policy and tools
- September – Stress in the workplace
- October – Manual handling and MSDs
- November – Knife safety
- December – Slips and trips

Composites UK will investigate ways of providing more on-site support to members, through working with partners who could provide audits, H&S checks etc. The online self-audit tool will be reviewed and simplified to make it easier to use and encourage wider uptake. This may be converted to an App during 2021.

Composites UK will continue to encourage members to sign up to the SIMPLC initiative to demonstrate their support for improved H&S across the sector.