



FORK LIFT TRUCK SAFETY - LATEST STATISTICS

Figures released recently during National Fork Lift Truck Safety Week make very uncomfortable reading for the Road Transport Industry. There has been a steady and sustained improvement in lift truck related injuries over the last ten years in almost every industry. In the Road Transport Industry however there has been a staggering **237% increase** in accidents. This is around a quarter of the overall UK injury toll. By contrast the warehousing and storage industry (which was previously the worst) has improved by 80% over the last decade. The breakdown of accidents is shown below:

Total Injuries 2009 / 2010:

• Road Transport Industry	384
• Food and Beverage Manufacturing	114
• Wholesale	86
• Storage and Warehousing	71
• Food and Beverage Retail	59
• Metal Products Manufacturing	53

The figures were extracted from RIDDOR reports and included 3 day absence injuries, serious injuries and fatalities. More worryingly, the HSE believes that none fatal / serious injury accidents are significantly under reported so the real figure could be much higher.

Some of the industries that the study looked at have had remarkable improvements, most notably the Textiles Industry. Transport definitely has a problem though. The areas of weakness, and where the improvement needs to occur, are the "usual suspects" of lack of safe working systems, good equipment and proper training. Hopefully the Road Transport Industry will take these figures as a wake up call and make the progress other industries have made.

Specialist is committed to helping companies establish safe working environments for lift truck operations. Our considerable experience in this area is always at the disposal of our customers. If your organisation needs any advice on any aspects of lift truck operations then give us a call.

