

The **Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013** (RIDDOR) come into force on 1 October 2013 replacing RIDDOR 1995.

Main changes

The main change made by these Regulations is a shorter or simplified list of:

- “major injuries” to workers (which are reportable by the quickest practicable means)
- reportable dangerous occurrences (near-miss events)
- reportable ill health/disease conditions
- dangerous occurrences within the rail sector, and removal of the requirement to report suicides on railways.

No changes are being made to:

- recording requirements
- reports of fatal accidents
- reports of accidents involving non-workers, including members of the public
- reports of accidents which incapacitate workers for more than seven days
- requirements to preserve certain incident sites at mines, quarries and offshore workplaces pending investigation and subject to overriding safety needs.

Reporting

Reporting should continue to be carried out through the HSE’s website <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor> . A telephone service is also provided for reporting fatal and major injuries only - call the Incident Contact Centre on 0845 300 9923 (opening hours Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm).

As before, the responsible person for making the report is generally the employer. If in doubt check the website.

Note. Although the reporting requirements are much simpler, it’s not possible in this short guide to reflect each one. You should still check the HSE’s guidance before making your report to avoid overreporting.

Fatal accidents

Work-related fatalities must still be reported immediately (as per the previous requirement).

Reportable injuries to employees

As previously, “over seven-day” accidents must be reported within 15 days of the accident. An over seven-day accident is one in which an employee is incapacitated from their normal range of work duties for seven days or more, not including the day of the accident, but including any scheduled non-working days.

Accidents resulting in “over three days” lost still need to be recorded, as required under the 1995 regulations, but not reported.

Major injuries to employees and the self-employed, i.e. those requiring reporting by the quickest practicable means, now include:

- fractures other than to fingers, thumbs and toes as diagnosed by a medical practitioner
- amputation of an arm, hand, finger, thumb, leg, foot or toe
- any injury diagnosed by a registered medical practitioner as being likely to cause permanent blinding or reduction in sight in one or both eyes
- any crush injury to the head or torso causing damage to the brain or internal organs in the chest or abdomen
- any burn injury (including scalding) which:
 - (i) covers more than 10% of the whole body’s total surface area or
 - (ii) causes significant damage to the eyes, respiratory system or other vital organs
- any degree of scalping requiring hospital treatment
- loss of consciousness caused by head injury or asphyxia
- any other injury arising from working in an enclosed space which:
 - (i) leads to hypothermia or heat-induced illness or
 - (ii) requires resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours.

Note. No longer reportable as major injuries are: dislocations, chemical/hot metal injuries to the eye, electric shock-related injury, heat induced illness, hypothermia, unconsciousness (in general), injuries requiring resuscitation in general and those requiring admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours.

After the initial report has been made it should be followed up with the full RIDDOR report within ten days.

Reportable injuries to persons not at work

The reporting requirement is unchanged and applies to accidents resulting in the injured non-worker being taken to a hospital for treatment. Certain injury accidents to non-workers within hospitals are also reportable (guidance is awaited).

This category of accident should be reported by the quickest practicable means and followed up with the full RIDDOR report within ten days.

Reportable disease categories

Reportable occupational diseases now include:

- carpal tunnel syndrome, where the person's work involves regular use of percussive or vibrating tools
- cramp in the hand or forearm, where the person's work involves prolonged periods of repetitive movement of the fingers, hand or arm
- occupational dermatitis, where the person's work involves significant or regular exposure to a known skin sensitiser or irritant
- hand arm vibration syndrome, where the person's work involves regular use of percussive or vibrating tools, or holding materials which are subject to percussive or vibrating processes
- occupational asthma, where the person's work involves significant or regular exposure to a known respiratory sensitiser
- tendonitis or tenosynovitis in the hand or forearm, where the person's work is physically demanding and involves frequent, repetitive movements
- any cancer attributed to an occupational exposure to a known human carcinogen or mutagen (including ionising radiation); or
- any disease attributed to an occupational exposure to a biological agent.

Reports must be submitted "without delay" on receipt of a diagnosis. (**Note.** The new Regulations are more loosely drafted than the previous ones which specified the report had to be made if the diagnosis was received in writing from a doctor).

Reportable “dangerous occurrences” categories

This category of accident should be reported by the quickest practicable means and followed up with the full RIDDOR report within ten days.

The following categories are expanded in detail within the Regulations, and there are specific inclusions and exclusions for mines, quarries, transport systems and offshore workplaces. You should always refer to the regulations or the HSE’s website for precise details of what does and doesn’t need reporting.

- **lifting equipment** - collapse, overturn, failure
- **pressure systems** - failure of closed vessels or pipework which could cause death
- **overhead electric lines** - unintentional contact with an overhead electric line carrying >200 volts, or close contact causing discharge
- **electrical incidents causing explosion or fire**
- **explosives incidents**
- **incidents involving biological agents**
- **radiation generators and radiography** - malfunction
- **breathing apparatus malfunction**
- **diving incidents**
- **collapse of scaffolding**
- **train collisions**
- **wells - blow outs**
- **pipelines or pipeline works**
- **structural collapse**
- **explosion or fire**
- **release of flammable liquids and gases**
- **hazardous escapes of substances.**