

## Falls from vehicles

The Health and Safety Laboratory published a [report on falls from vehicles](#) in 2007. The report was based on accidents reported to the HSE under RIDDOR in the period from 2000 to 2005.

More advice on prevention of falls from vehicles is available on the [HSE website transport pages](#).

A total of 253 incidents were looked at in the investigation and all percentages are based on this figure.

The report makes a number of suggestions to reduce the number of falls from vehicles.

The following categories were looked at;

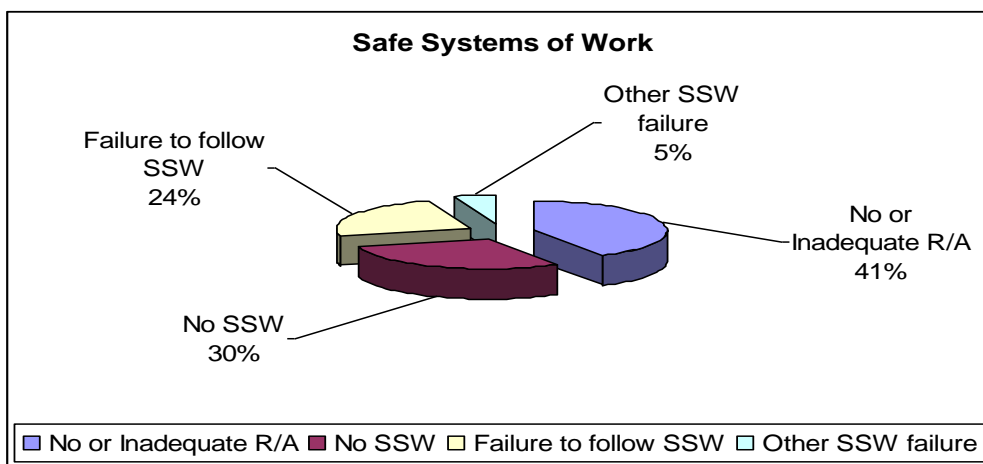
- **Safe Systems of work** – aspects of poor work practice which are believed to have contributed to the incident occurring. (e.g. no safe system of work, or lack of or inadequate risk assessments).
- **Type of vehicle.**
- **Part of the vehicle** from which the injured person fell.
- **Activity** that the injured party was carrying out at the time of the incident.
- **Location** where the accident occurred.
- **Other Contributing factors**

### **Safe Systems:**

Shortcomings in the systems of work were identified in 189 out of 253 cases (75 % of accidents).

The most common failings identified were:

- Risk assessments had either not been carried out or were inadequate - 103 cases (41% of accidents).
- No safe system of work - 75 cases (30 % of accidents)
- Failure to follow safe systems – 60 cases (24 % of accidents)

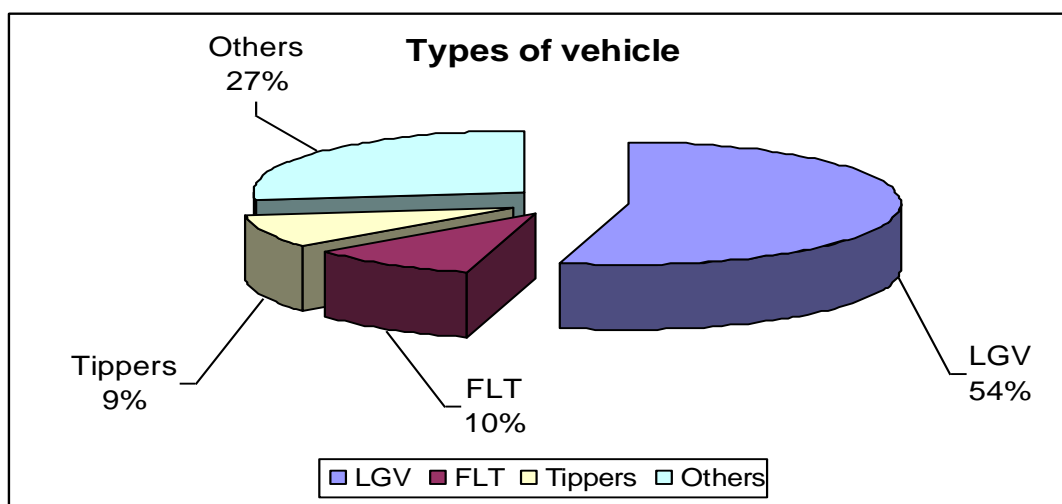


### Type of vehicle:

It was possible to identify the type of vehicle involved in all 253 cases.

The most common types of vehicles involved in the incidents were:

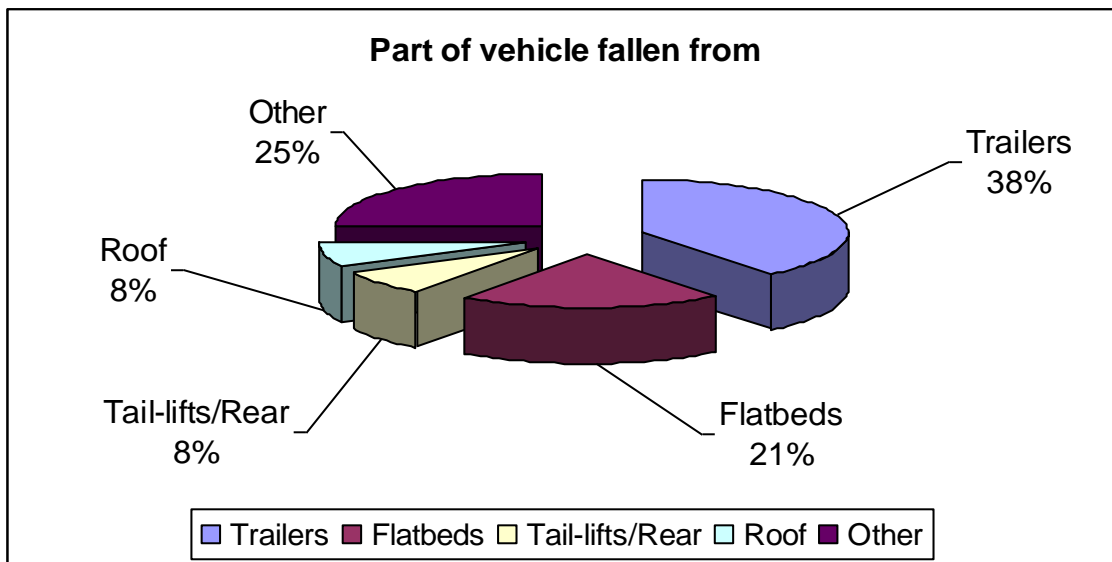
- Large Goods Vehicles (LGV) 54 % of accidents
- Fork Lift Trucks (FLT) 10 %
- Tipper wagons 9%



### Part of Vehicle fallen from:

The parts of vehicles from which falls most commonly occurred were:

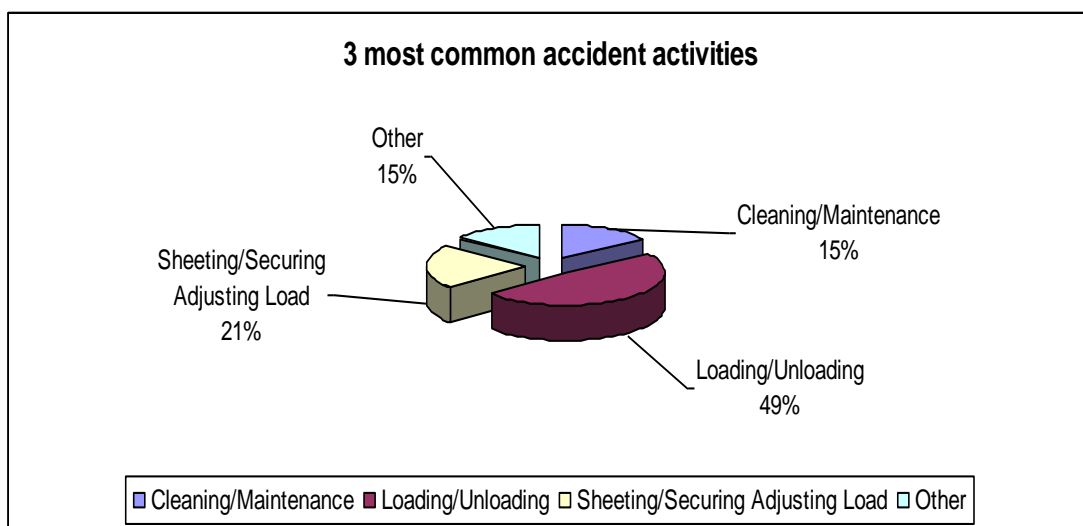
- Trailer 99 cases (39% of accidents)
- Flat bed – 53 cases (21% of accidents)
- Tail lift / Rear – 19 cases (7.5% of accidents). (7 cases - 37% were specifically from tail lifts)
- Roof etc. – 19 cases (7.5 % of accidents)



**Activity:**

The three most common activities identified were:

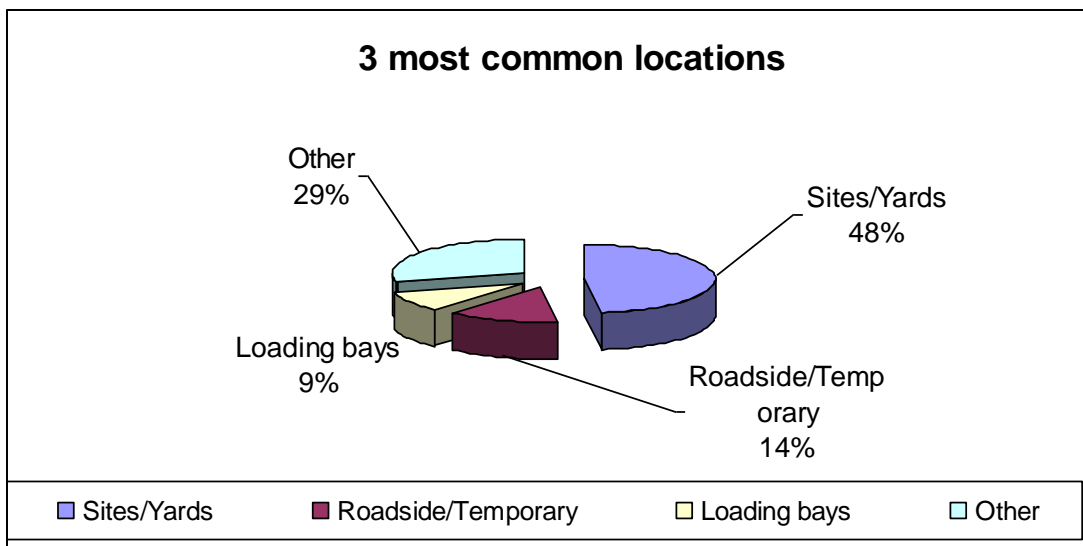
Loading or unloading a vehicle – 125 cases (49 % of accidents), Sheeting, securing or adjusting the load – 54 cases (21 % of accidents), Cleaning and / or maintenance – 39 cases (15 % of accidents)



**Location:**

The three most common locations for accidents were:

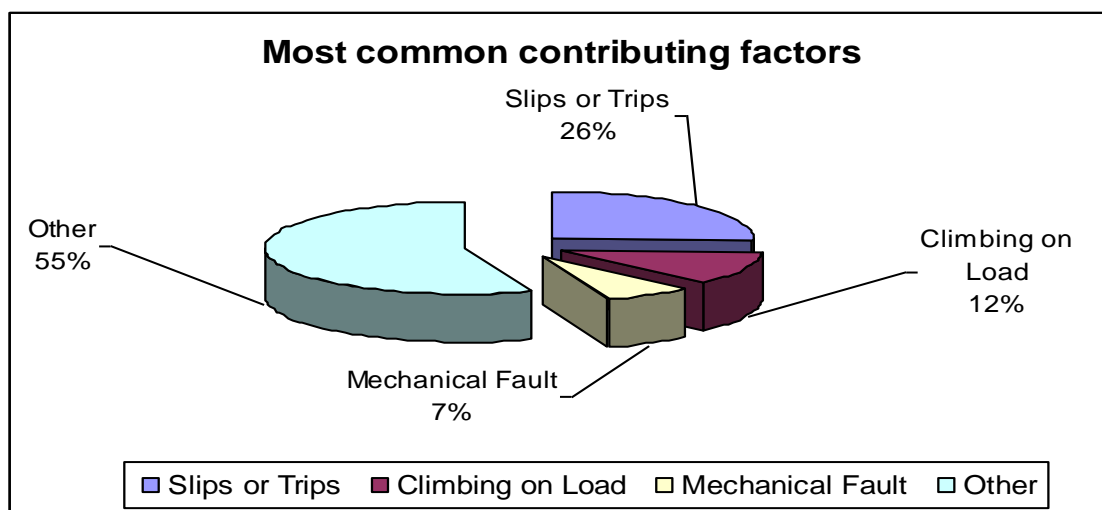
Sites and yards - 121 cases (48 % of accidents), Roadside / temporary - 35 cases (14 % of accidents), Loading bays - 23 cases (9 % of accidents)



**Contributing factors:**

The most common contributing factors identified were:

Slips or trips – 65 cases (26% of accidents), climbing on the load – 30 cases (12 % of accidents), mechanical Fault – 18 cases (7 % of accidents)



40% of the incidents involving fork lift trucks occurred as a result of individuals standing on the forks to access things at height. It would appear that better publicity and education about just how dangerous the improper use of FLT is urgently needed.

The full report can be downloaded from;  
[http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/hsl\\_pdf/2007/hsl0739.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/hsl_pdf/2007/hsl0739.pdf)