

Injuries in schools?

I report injuries to school pupils and college students. What category should I use on the F2508 form under "Injured Person's Employment Status"?

Students and pupils are not at work and therefore are regarded as members of the public (MOPs) for this part of the form. The exception is where a student / pupil, including children, are on a recognised training scheme or work experience. Under health and safety law they are regarded as employees. In these circumstances the employer or person in control of the work premises where the pupil or student was doing the training should report the injury as if they were one of their employees.

Are accidents to pupils sustained in PE lessons reportable under RIDDOR?

Yes, but only if the pupil is killed or taken to hospital for treatment of the injury and the accident arose out of or was connected to the school's or college's work. For example, the accident arose because of poor organisation or supervision arrangements, the equipment or the condition of the premises, e.g. a potholed tarmac surface.

Are sporting injuries reportable?

No, if the injury arose out of the normal participation of the activity. Injuries should be reported if they were due to defective equipment or failings in the organisation and management of an event.

What if the pupil is taken to hospital as a precaution but the examination shows no injury?

No. RIDDOR only requires injuries to be reported, if the medical advice is that the pupil was not injured in any way then there is no need to report this.

Do I need to know what treatment was given by the hospital before I report an injury to a pupil?

There is no requirement to check that treatment is actually administered by the hospital. If the school is later told that the hospital could find no injury, not even a minor cut or abrasion, then you do not have to make a report as the law only requires you report injuries in these circumstances.

The key thing to remember when determining whether to report an incident to a pupil or other people who are not at work is if the accident that resulted in the death or injury that must be reported, arose out of or was connected with the work activity.

Some of our pupils have been hurt in a road traffic accident on the way to school in the school bus.

Should I report their injuries?

No. Deaths and injuries that result from the movement of a vehicle on a road do not have to be reported (see above section on road traffic accidents).

A pupil has been injured while on a school trip abroad. Should I report this to HSE?

No. HSE does not have jurisdiction when the pupil is outside the country so RIDDOR does not apply.. A report may have to be made to another appropriate authority though. (For example the school may need to report the incident to other bodies such as the local safeguarding committee).