

## **HSE Latest and Future Priorities – Waste and Recycling Sector**

- Raising Health and Safety Standards in the Waste Management Industry
- Identifying HSE's priorities for the sector
- Engaging the sector on delivering improvement in H&S performance

**Tim Small**

HSE Waste & Recycling Sector

## 1. What have we been doing?

HRS Inspections undertaken in Q1 and Q2 of 2023/24 (April 2023 – September 2023) for W&R

### Headline figures

- Total number of inspections 630
- 237 NOCs issued
- 37.62% MB rate
- Priority issues: WPT and machinery safety

### Notices

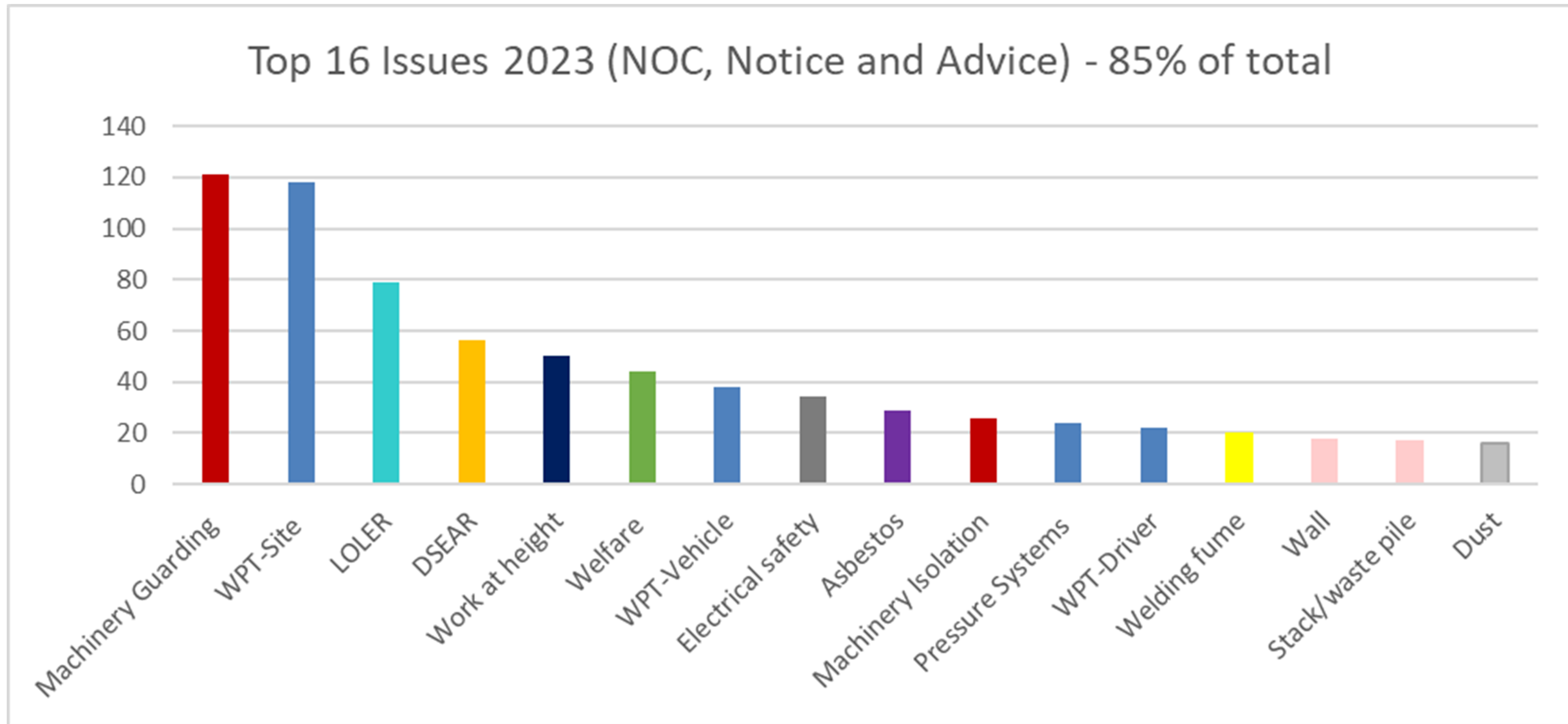
- Total served = 225
- Total PN's = 47
- Total IN's = 178

## Headline Figures

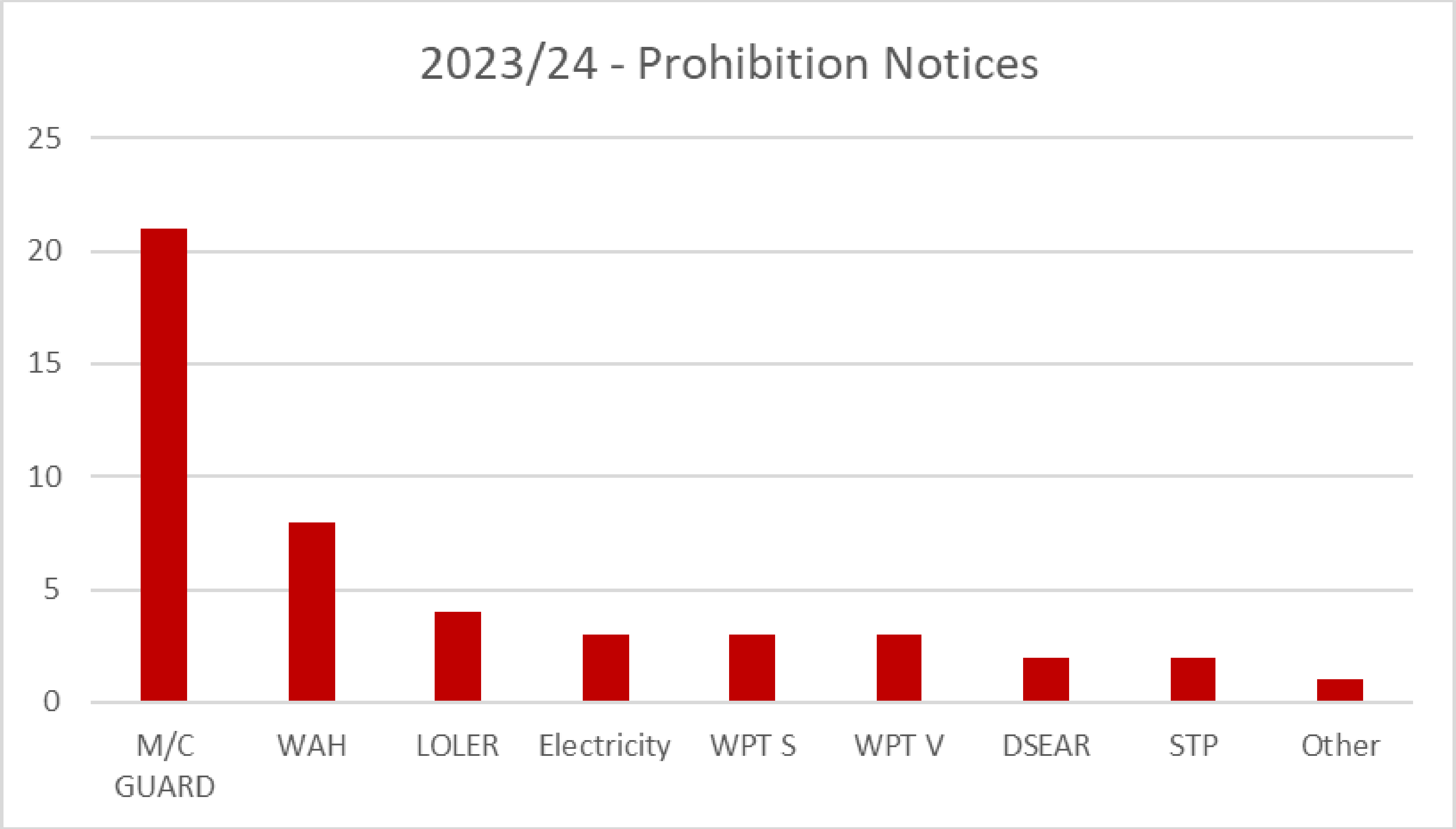
- Material breach rate is 37.62% - comparable with previous years.
- No proactive prosecutions.
- The priority issues –
  - To reduce the number of people being struck by moving vehicles.
  - To reduce the number of workers being caught in moving machinery.

These were the top 2 subjects for NOCs.

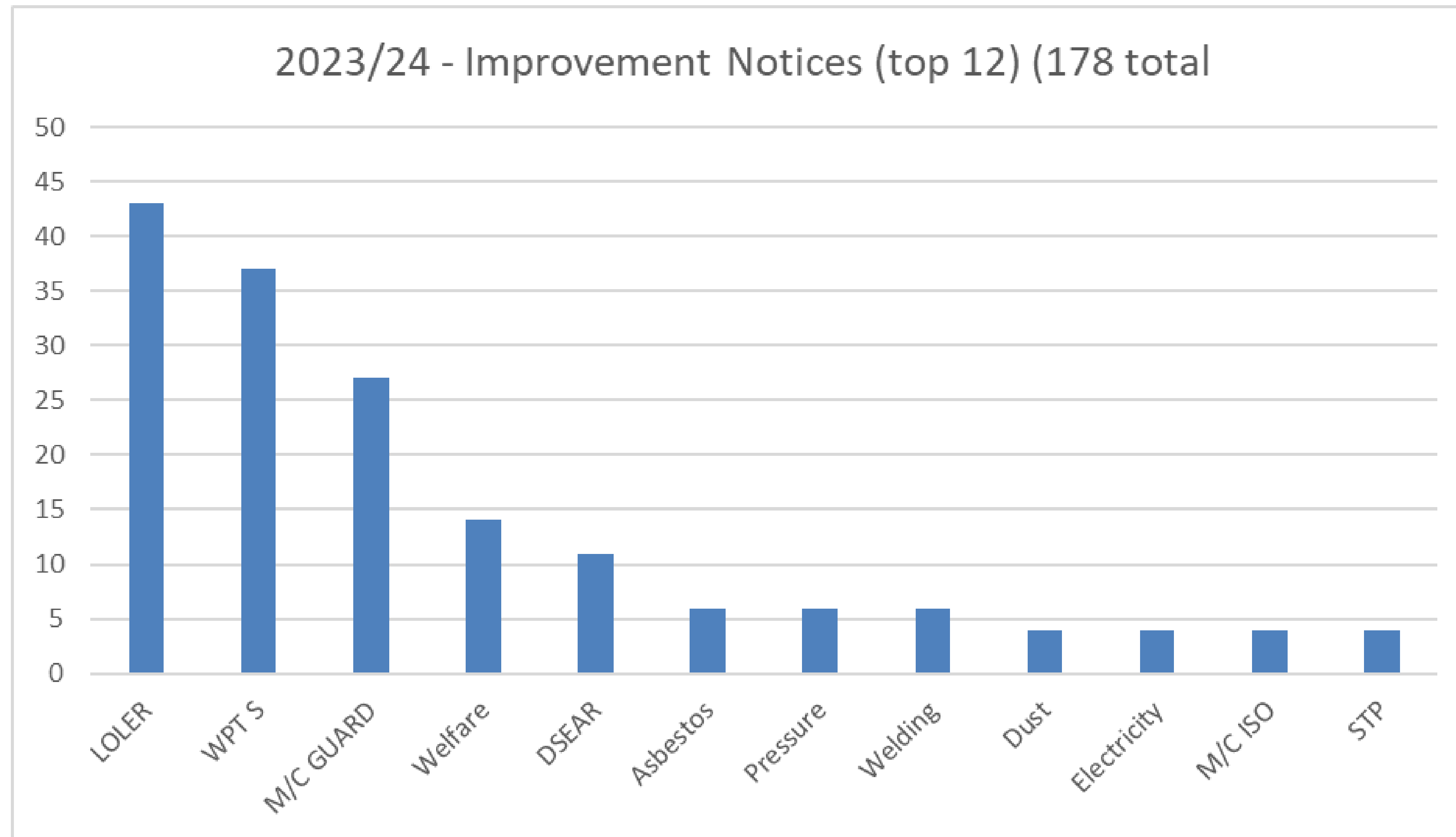
## Overview of HRS Inspections: Main issues – NOC’s, notices and advice



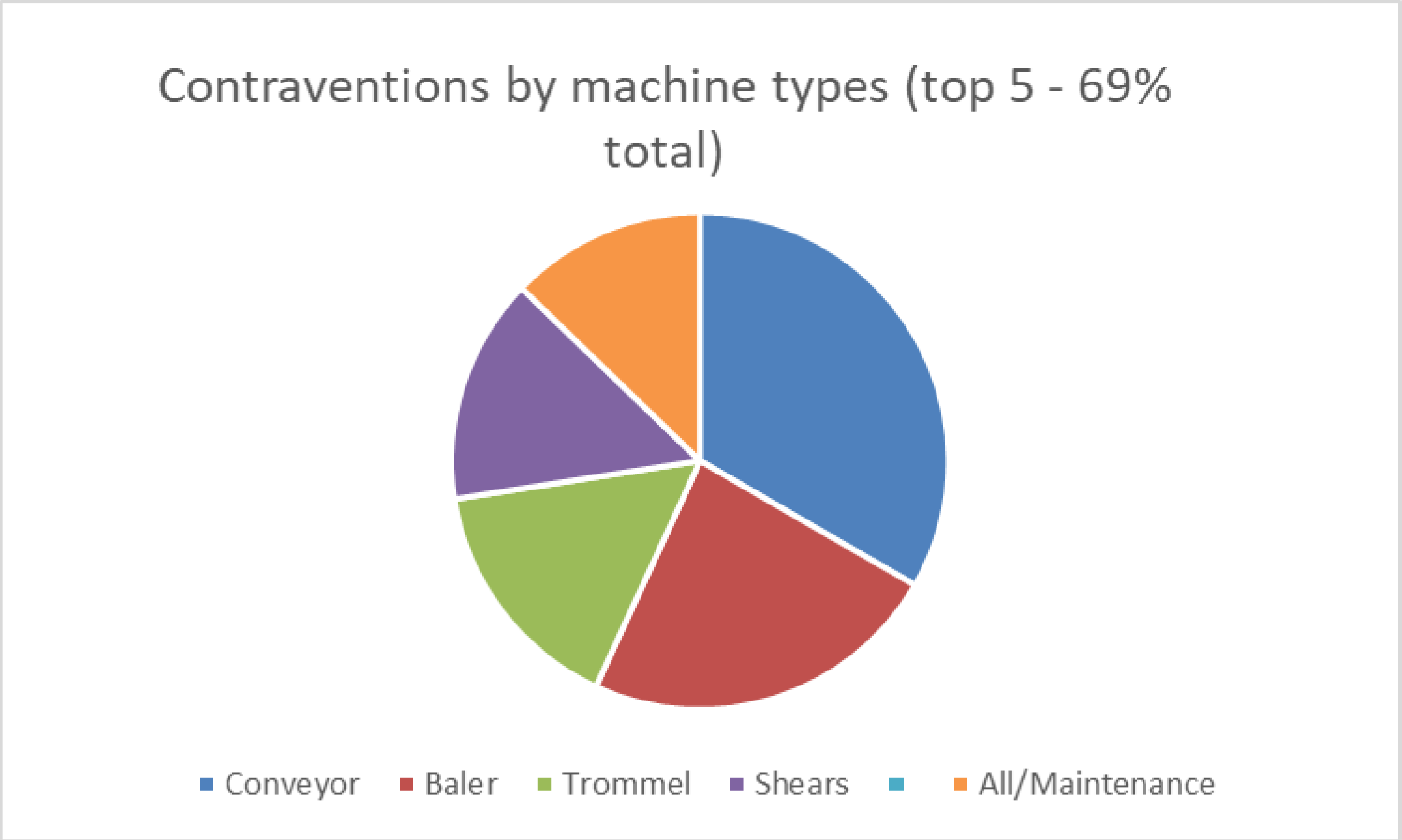
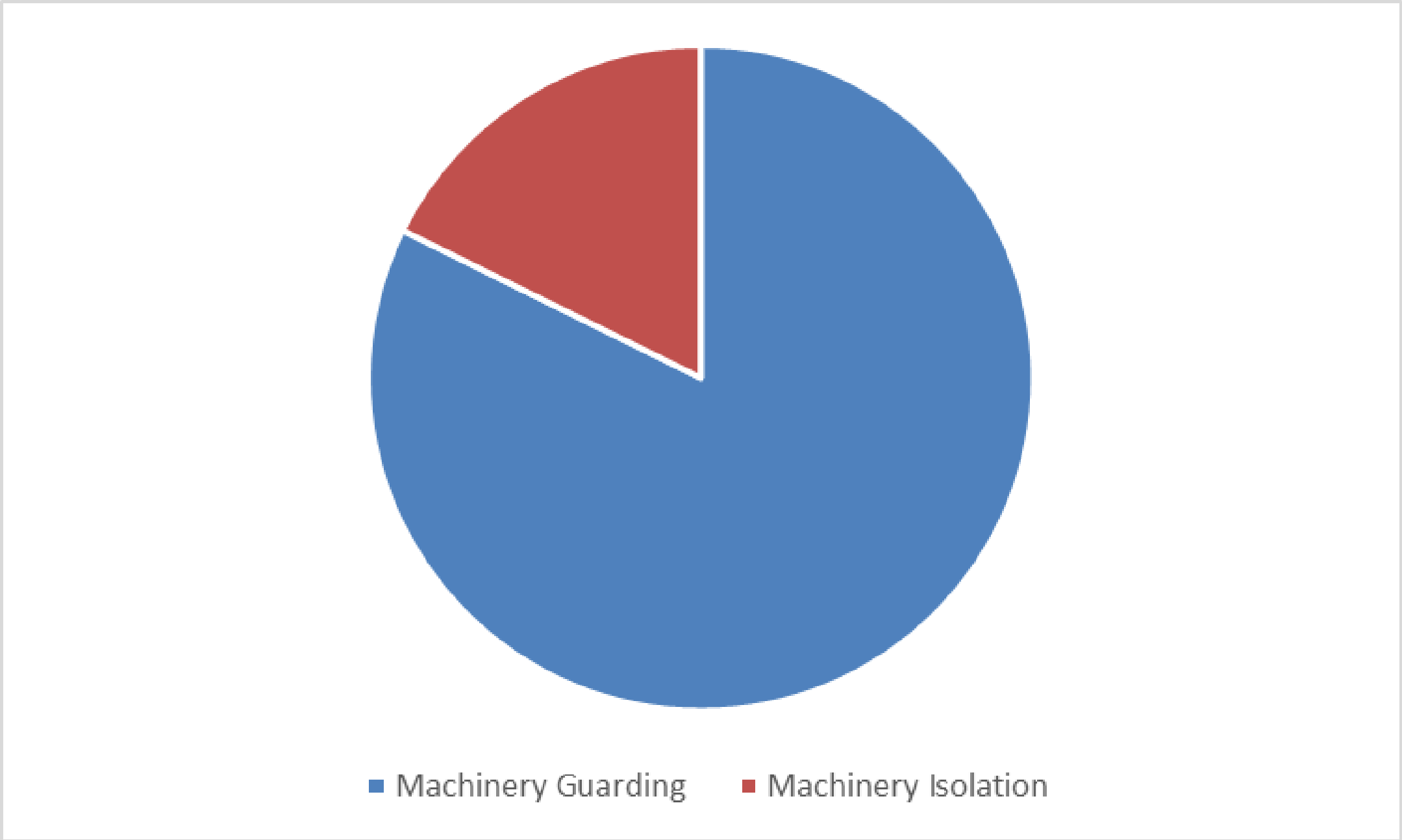
# Main Issues – Prohibition Notices



## Main Issues – Improvement Notices



# Machinery Safety



## Key messages...

---

- **Welfare** – still not getting this right, 23 years into 21st Century!
- **WPT transport** – Poor / no WPT risk assessment & failure to ensure pedestrians & vehicle segregation still a fundamental problem
- **Conveyors and balers** - still dominate this category, despite guarding and lock-off & isolation guidance published over 2 years ago
- **LOLER** – statutory examinations not being carried out

In short, very disappointing we are not seeing more progress on these issues – what more can be done???



## 2. Future priorities

---

### Pivot to health...

- **31.5 million working days lost** p.a. (3.7 million days for safety)
- **1.8 million** working people suffering from a work-related illness, of which
  - **875,000** workers suffering work-related stress, depression or anxiety (49% of total)
  - **473,000** workers suffering from a work-related musculoskeletal disorder (27% of total)
  - **12000** lung disease deaths each year estimated to be linked to past exposures at work (inc **2,257** mesothelioma deaths)
- **Total costs** – Health - £13.1 billion (Safety - £7.7 billion)
- [Health and safety statistics 2022 \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/2022/)

## What does this look like in practice?

---

- 5 strands -
  - Asbestos (duty to manage)
  - Musculoskeletal disorders – manual handling and upper limb disorders
  - Noise induced hearing loss, focusing on hearing protection
  - Legally required health surveillance, where it's necessary
  - Stress & mental health

## Other priorities

---

- Maintaining safety
- Net zero technologies
- Automation/AI

# Working Collaboratively - Engaging with sector

**WISH**

Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum

**INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

## BIOAEROSOLS IN WASTE AND RECYCLING

*This WISH information document is aimed at health and safety improvements in the waste management industry. The Health and Safety Executive provided support to WISH in producing this guidance. This guidance may go further than the minimum you need to do to comply with the law with regard to health and safety*

### Contents

1. What are bioaerosols?
  2. Why are bioaerosols a concern?
  3. Where do bioaerosols occur in the waste and recycling sector?
  4. What does the law say?
  5. Assessment and control of bioaerosols
  6. References
- Disclaimer and WISH  
Appendix 1. COSHH risk assessment process  
Appendix 2. Research-based exposure guidelines

**WISH**

Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum

**INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

## SAFETY IN THE OPERATION OF AUTOMATIC BIN LIFTING EQUIPMENT ON RCVs

*This WISH information document is aimed at health and safety improvements in the waste management industry. The Health and Safety Executive provided support to WISH in producing this guidance. This guidance may go further than the minimum you need to do to comply with the law with regard to health and safety*

### Contents

- Introduction  
Background – accidents, hazards, and risks  
Physical safeguards and interim physical solutions  
Procedural controls  
Disclaimer and WISH  
Further reading and links

**WISH**

### Safety alert

#### Working under hydraulic hatches, doors, body sections and similar

This safety alert is aimed at organisations in the waste and recycling sector operating vehicles with hydraulically operated rear doors, hatches, body sections etc. It follows a fatal accident when a person was working under the top-hinged hydraulically powered rear door of a road sweeper. The mechanism of the door failed, allowing it to slam shut, resulting in fatal crush injuries. The information in this alert also applies to other waste vehicles with hydraulically operated components which present a similar risk. For example, the top-hinged rear door on a walking-floor bulk waste trailer or the raising rear body section on most RCVs (refuse collection vehicle) and similar.

Hydraulic systems and their components can fail in various ways, which over the years has resulted in serious and fatal accidents similar to the above. Where systems can fail as a result of a single component failure, people should not work under raised doors, hatches, body sections etc relying solely on hydraulic systems unless some form of fully independent secondary protection is fitted and used. Commonly with waste vehicles this is provided by the use of a prop, typically fitted to the vehicle body which swings or slides into place, although there are other methods.

#### Actions you should now take

You should now review your risk assessment/s for the operation and maintenance of such equipment to ensure that effective controls for managing the risk of mechanical and hydraulic failure are in place and working. If your vehicles are not fitted with props or similar devices, you should contact your supplier to establish what other controls such as dual cylinders with control monitoring or automatic anti-drop protection are in place and if they are fully independent and effective, in the event that a single component, such as a hydraulic cylinder, hinge or other component fails or detaches.

To be effective, props and other similar devices need to be adequately designed, maintained and functional, and they need to be actually used. Because props etc usually rely on people to deploy them, it is essential that workers are trained and understand the risks from working below unsupported hydraulically operated work equipment and how and when to use the prop or similar device.

## 3. Bin Lifts

---

### Bin lift death sheds light on 'safety concerns' in waste collections

The recent release of a coroner's report has shed light on safety concerns within the waste collection industry, following the death of David Carpenter.



Mr Carpenter, a 60-year-old refuse collector employed by Coventry city council, lost his life in a workplace accident on 19 January 2023. The investigation into his death concluded on 22 April 2024, revealing details about the circumstances surrounding the incident.

According to Coroner Delroy Henry, Mr Carpenter was fatally injured while working with a Dennis Eagle bin lorry equipped with a Terberg 'Omnideka' automatic bin lift system.

The report outlines that Mr Carpenter's coat became entangled in the lifting mechanism, tragically resulting in his death during the automatic compaction

## Action so far and next steps...

---

- Coroner's inquest – prevention of future deaths letter (Reg 28)
- Restriction on BS-EN 1501-5 -> new Annex being finalised...
- HSE and WISH working with OEM suppliers
- INFO26 (revised) - *Safety in the operation of automatic bin lifting equipment on RCVs* now updated – [INFO 26](#)
- FAQs produced - Ref 13 now live - [Ref 13](#)
- This aims to help support users in their decision making
- OEMs are contacting all users to offer options
- Users need to engage with suppliers to determine best course of action and prioritise retrofit work
- HSE / WISH will write to all LA CEOs in the next few weeks setting out the issues and what needs to be done.

**Questions?**