

OIR Typology

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland Board Report

Typology: Wholesale trade industry

A report on the circumstances causing injuries or diseases which were compensated for 60 days or more.

Note: Data extracted June 2019

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1. Executive summary

This document provides a Typology based on Queensland Wholesale industry claims with 60 or more workdays compensated. The Typology classifies the circumstances that resulted in the injury or disease using *mechanism of incident*, as outlined in the types of occurrence classification system (TOOCS).

Claims with 60 or more workdays compensated account for 64 per cent of all Wholesale claims costs over the period. The average claim rate was 4.1 claims per 1000 workers, which is higher than the average claim rate of 3.1 claims per 1000 workers for all Queensland industries. Workers in the Wholesale industry are 1.3 times more likely to experience a significant injury as workers in all other industries.

Wholesale workers between the ages of 35 to 54 years represent over half of all Wholesale claims with 60 or more workdays compensated. Moreover, the average claim rates for the Wholesale industry were significantly higher than the rates for all of Queensland across most age groups.

Approximately 95 per cent of claims with 60 or more workdays compensated were the result of either body stressing, falls, vehicle incidents or being hit by moving objects.

Body stressing injuries represent half of all relevant Wholesale claims. Almost all of the *body stressing* injuries were the result of muscle strains while lifting or handling objects.

Falls, trips and slips injuries represent over a fifth of all relevant Wholesale claims. *Falls, trips and slips* injuries were mainly the result of a fall at level.

Injuries resulting from *vehicle incidents* represent 14 per cent of all relevant Wholesale claims.

On average, two Wholesale workers a year over the period were fatally injured. Most of the fatalities were the result of a vehicle incident.

2. Introduction

This document provides a Typology based on *mechanism of incident* and relates to the Wholesale trade (hereafter, Wholesale) industry only. The Types of Occurrence Classification System (TOOCS), developed by Safe Work Australia, has been used to describe the relevant mechanism. The mechanism is the *action, exposure or event* that best describes the circumstances that resulted in the injury/disease.

2.1 What is a Typology?

A Typology is a scientific method of classification that helps explain what has happened previously. In this case, the classification is based on TOOCS *mechanism of incident* and the Typology is comprised of two levels. The higher level (or type) contains the largest and most general groups of mechanisms of incidents. The second type or sub-grouping is a breakdown of these larger mechanisms of incident groups. This Typology is a form of pattern analysis that allows the reader to:

- identify common injury mechanisms and target areas of concern
- assess the effectiveness of targeted initiatives over time.

Note: The Typology is restricted to two levels as it is based on TOOCS *mechanism of incident, which* is comprised of two levels. That is, an upper level (mechanism group) and a more detailed lower level (mechanism).

2.2 Scope

The Typology was developed using accepted workers' compensation claims¹ data where:

- the industry division² is Wholesale
- 60 or more workdays are compensated
- psychological and commuting claims are excluded
- the claim intimation date is between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016 (the period).

2.2.1 Why focus on claims with 60 or more workdays compensated?

Table 1 below shows the number of Wholesale claims and overall costs for each claim category. Although claims with 60 or more workdays compensated make up only nine per cent of all claims over the period, they account for 64 per cent of total claim costs.

Wholesale claims with 60 or more workdays compensated include permanent and non-permanent impairment damage claims and involve injuries of a significant nature.

¹ Source: Queensland Employee Injury Database (QEIDB)

² Based on ABS: ANZSIC 2006 Classifications

Table 1. Wholesale claims by category (2012 to 2016)

| Category | No. of claims | % of claims | Total claim costs [^] | % of costs |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Less than 60 workdays compensated | 15,556 | 91% | \$48M | 34% |
| 60 or more workdays compensated | 1,451 | 9% | \$90M | 64% |
| Fatality claims | 8 | 0% | \$2M | 1% |
| Total | 17,015 | 100% | \$140M | 100% |

[^]Total statutory costs over the period - 2012 to 2016

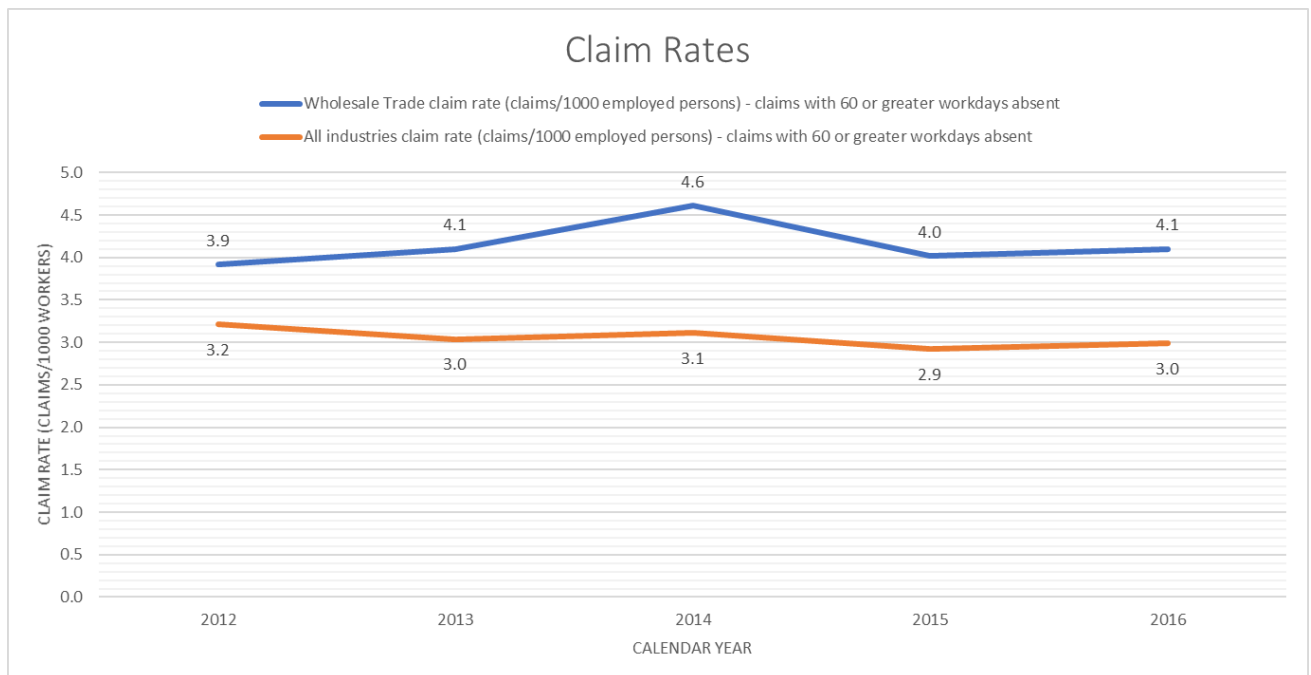
There are rounding errors in this table

3. Background – Wholesale industry

3.1 Incidence

The claim rate for Wholesale claims with 60 or more workdays compensated has remained relatively stable over the past five years; however, the Wholesale claim rate sits above the claim rate for all Queensland industries. The average claim rate for Wholesale over the period was 4.1 claims per 1000 workers, which is higher than the average claim rate of 3.1 claims per 1000 workers for all industries. Refer to chart 1 below.

Chart 1. Claim rates (2012 to 2016)



3.2 Likelihood of ≥60 workdays compensated claims

On average, one in every 242 Queensland Wholesale workers each year will experience a significant injury (an injury which results in a claim requiring 60 or more workdays compensated). Wholesale workers are 1.3 times more likely to experience a significant injury when compared to workers from all other industries. Refer to tables 2 and 3 below.

Table 2. Likelihood - Wholesale claims with 60 or more workdays compensated

| Calendar year | No. of claims | Labour force ³ | Likelihood (1 in X workers) |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2012 | 281 | 71,800 | 1 in 256 |
| 2013 | 313 | 76,300 | 1 in 244 |
| 2014 | 302 | 65,500 | 1 in 217 |
| 2015 | 283 | 70,500 | 1 in 249 |
| 2016 | 272 | 66,300 | 1 in 244 |
| Average | | | 1 in 242 |

Table 3. Likelihood - All other industry claims (excluding Wholesale) with 60 or more workdays compensated

| Calendar year | No. of claims | Labour force ³ | Likelihood (1 in X workers) |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2012 | 7,052 | 2,211,200 | 1 in 314 |
| 2013 | 6,659 | 2,218,600 | 1 in 333 |
| 2014 | 6,925 | 2,257,700 | 1 in 326 |
| 2015 | 6,577 | 2,278,400 | 1 in 346 |
| 2016 | 6,799 | 2,300,100 | 1 in 338 |
| Average | | | 1 in 331 |

3.3 Age distribution

The rates in this section are significantly higher than other rates calculated in this paper due to different source denominators being used for age analysis. As such, they are not comparable.

Over half of all Wholesale claims with 60 or more workdays compensated were for workers between the ages of 35 and 54 years.

Chart 2 shows the claim rates for claims with 60 or more workdays compensated by age group. Notably, the average claim rates for Wholesale were significantly higher than the rates for all of Queensland across most of the age groups.

³ Source: ABS labour force data

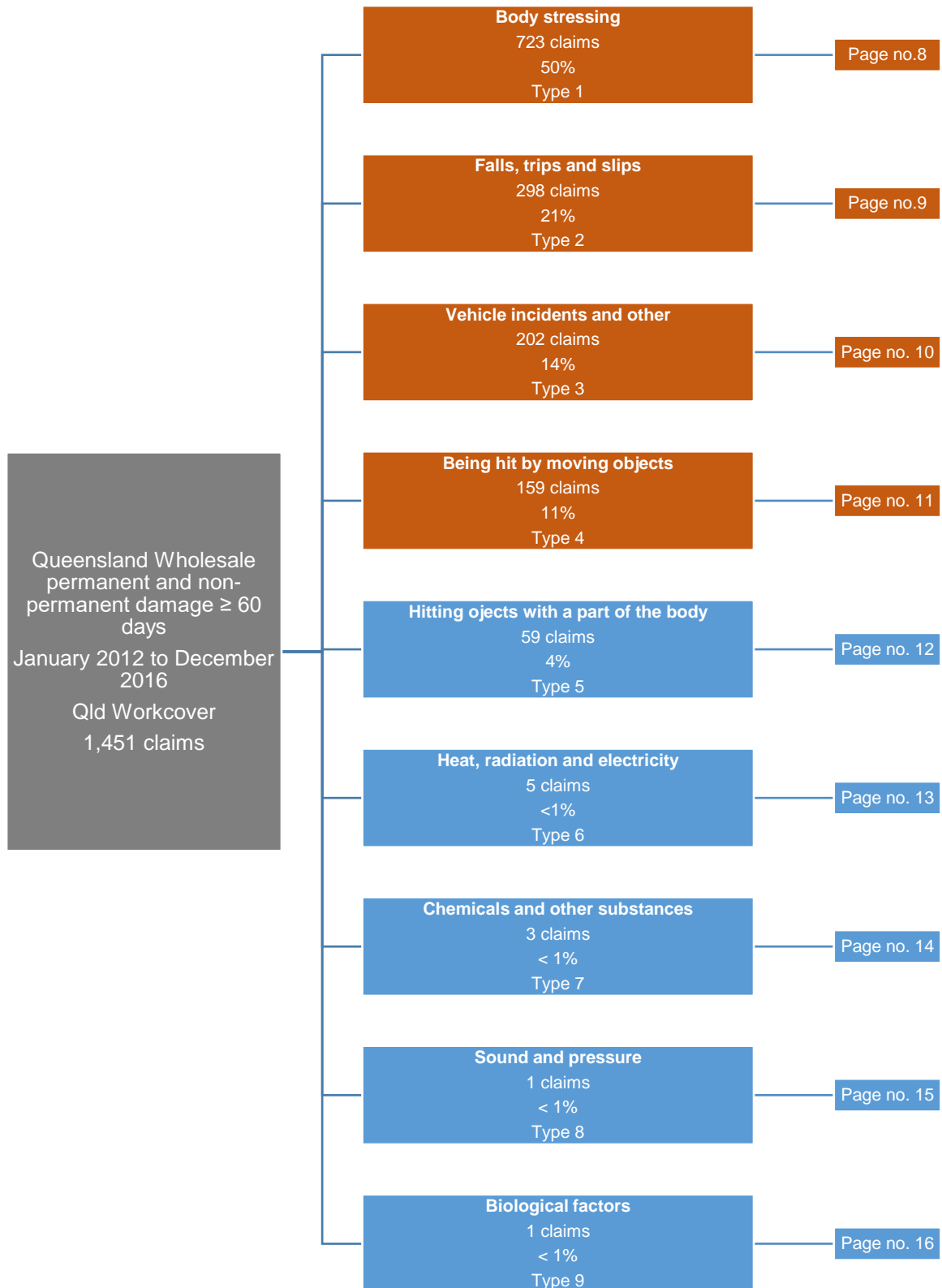
Chart 2. Claims rates by age group (2012 to 2016)



Note: The age group rates were calculated using the average number of claims over the period (2012-2016) divided by the 2016 Census labour force numbers multiplied by 1000.

4. Typology by mechanism (group)

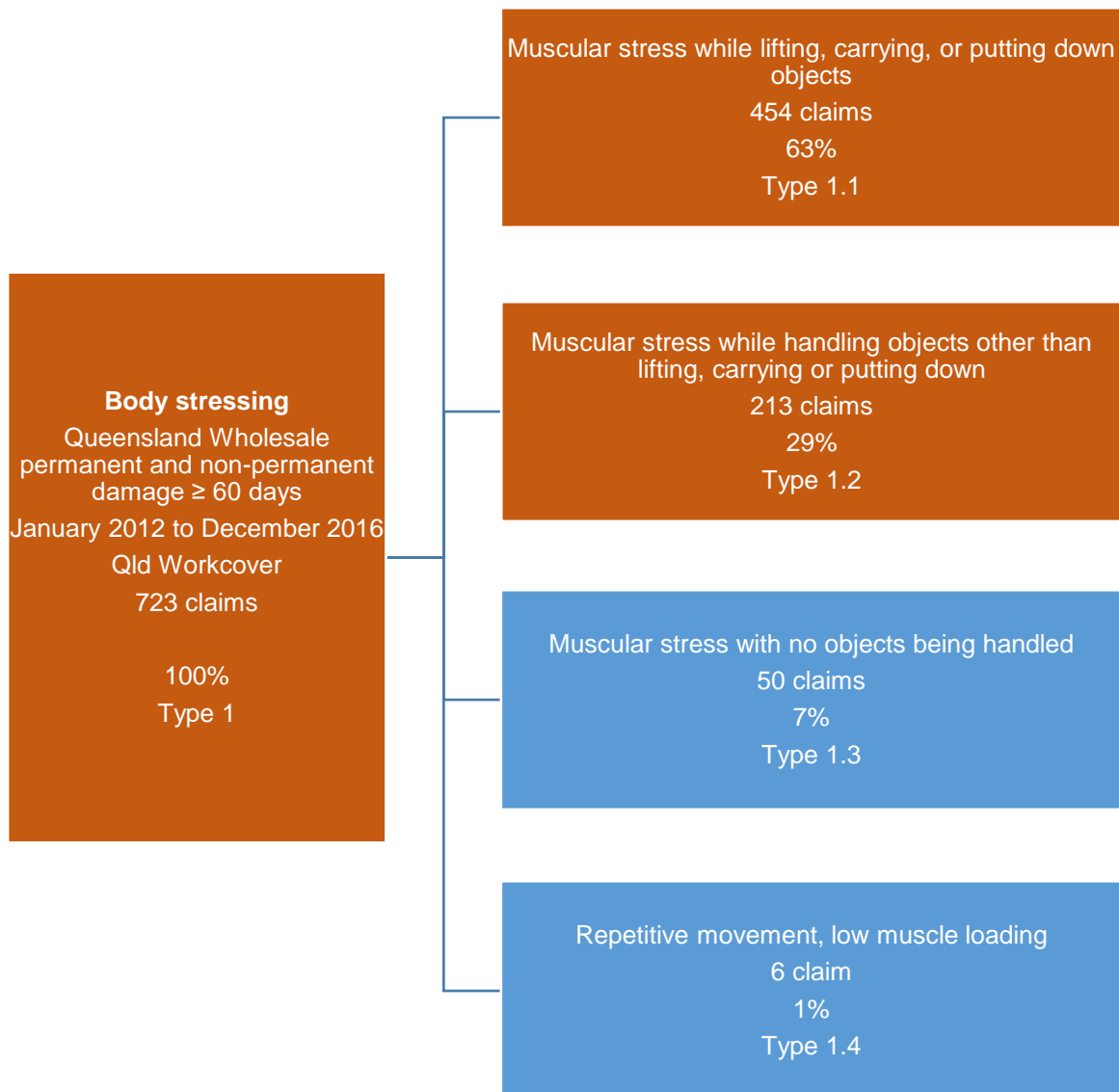
Note: *Orange* indicates an area of concern whereas *blue* indicates an area of interest but of less importance.



4.1 Type 1 – body stressing

Body stressing represents 50 per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims \geq 60 workdays compensated.

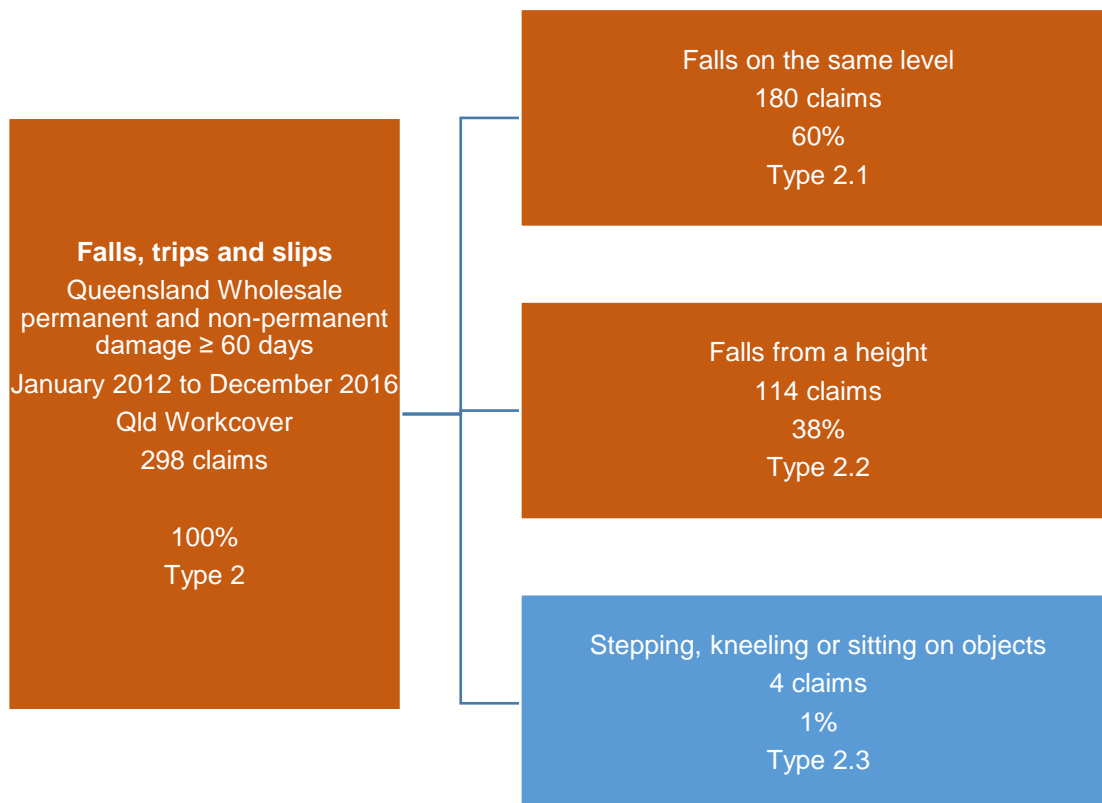
Over a quarter of body stressing claims were for Storepersons (26 per cent) and 45 per cent of those claims related to the upper or lower back.



4.2 Type 2 – falls, trips and slips

Falls, trips and slips represent 21 per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims ≥ 60 workdays compensated.

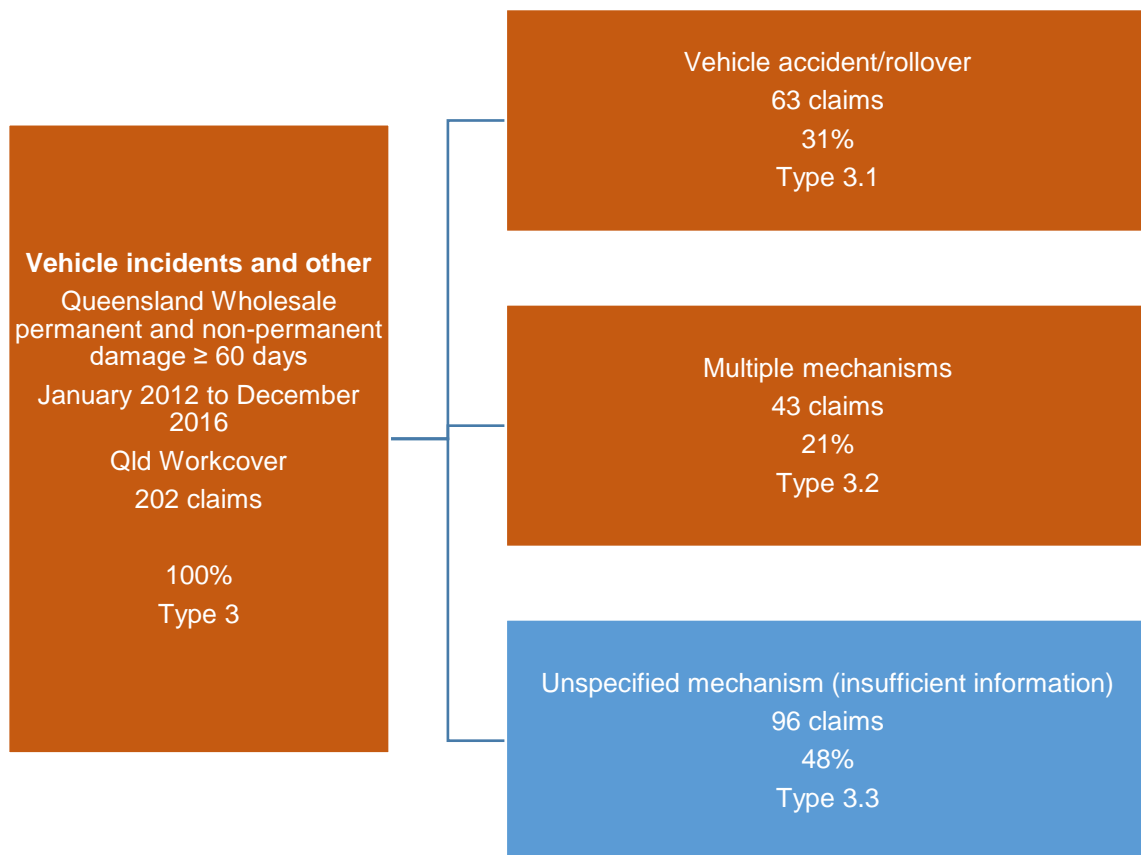
Other labourers, Storepersons, and Road and rail drivers made up more than half of *falls, trips and slips* claims (54 per cent) and 40 per cent of those claims were associated with the knee (20 per cent) or back (20 per cent).



4.3 Type 3 – vehicle incidents and other

Vehicle incidents and other represent 14 per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims ≥ 60 workdays compensated.

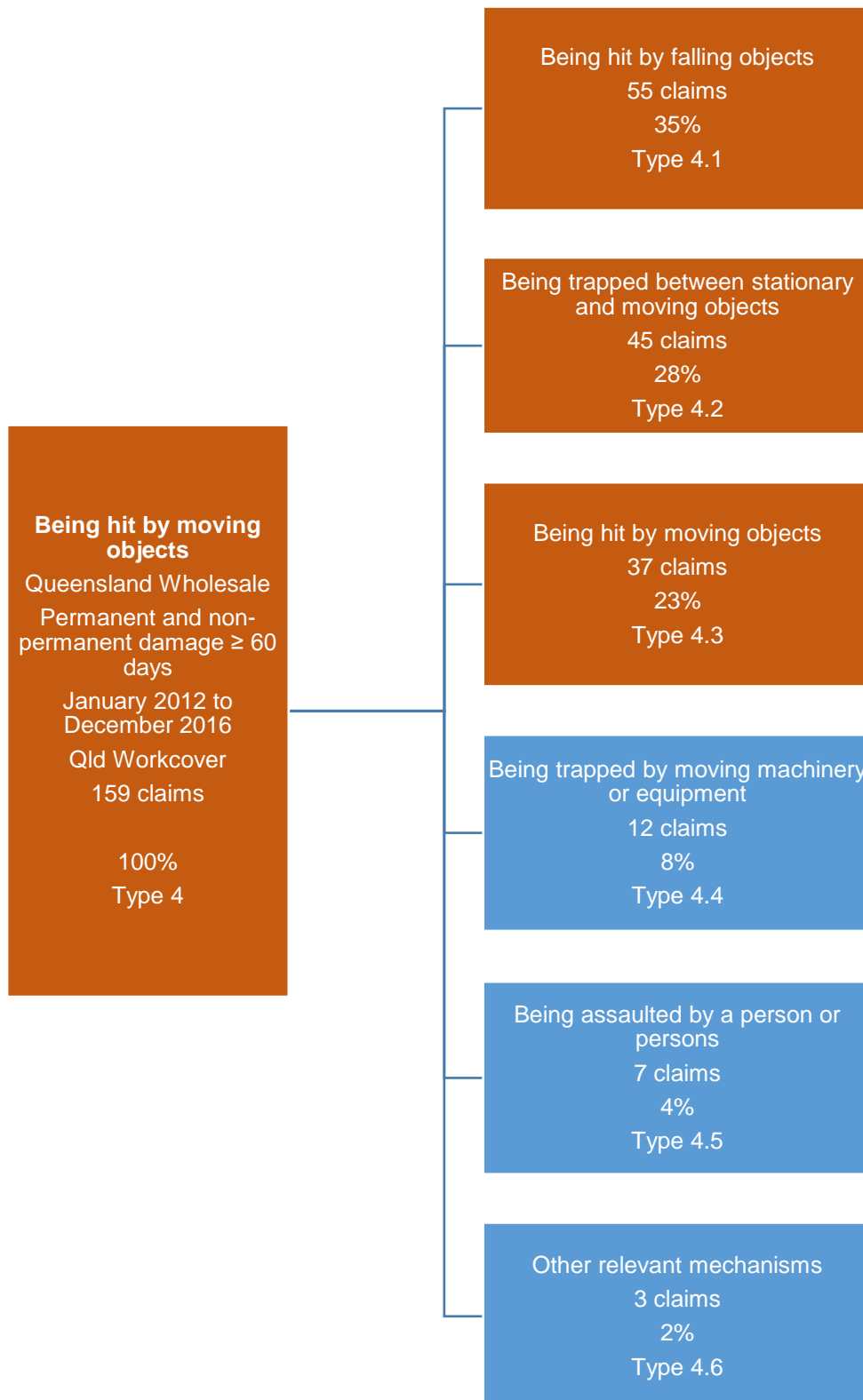
Unsurprisingly, Machinery operators and drivers accounted for a third of vehicle incident claims (33 per cent), and nearly a third of those claims (29 per cent) were the result of a back injury.



4.4 Type 4 – being hit by moving objects

Being hit by moving objects represents 11 per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims \geq 60 workdays compensated.

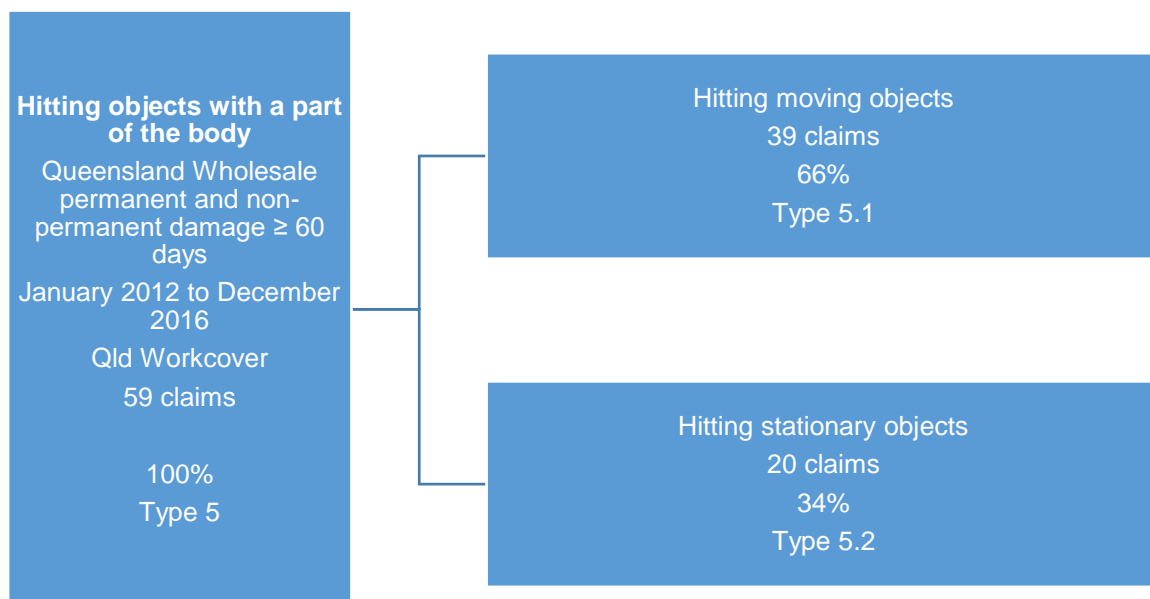
More than a third of claims for *being hit by moving objects* were for Storepersons and Miscellaneous Labourers (34 per cent) and nearly a third (30 per cent) of those claims were for fractures.



4.5 Type 5 – hitting objects with a part of the body

Hitting objects with a part of the body represents four per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims \geq 60 workdays compensated.

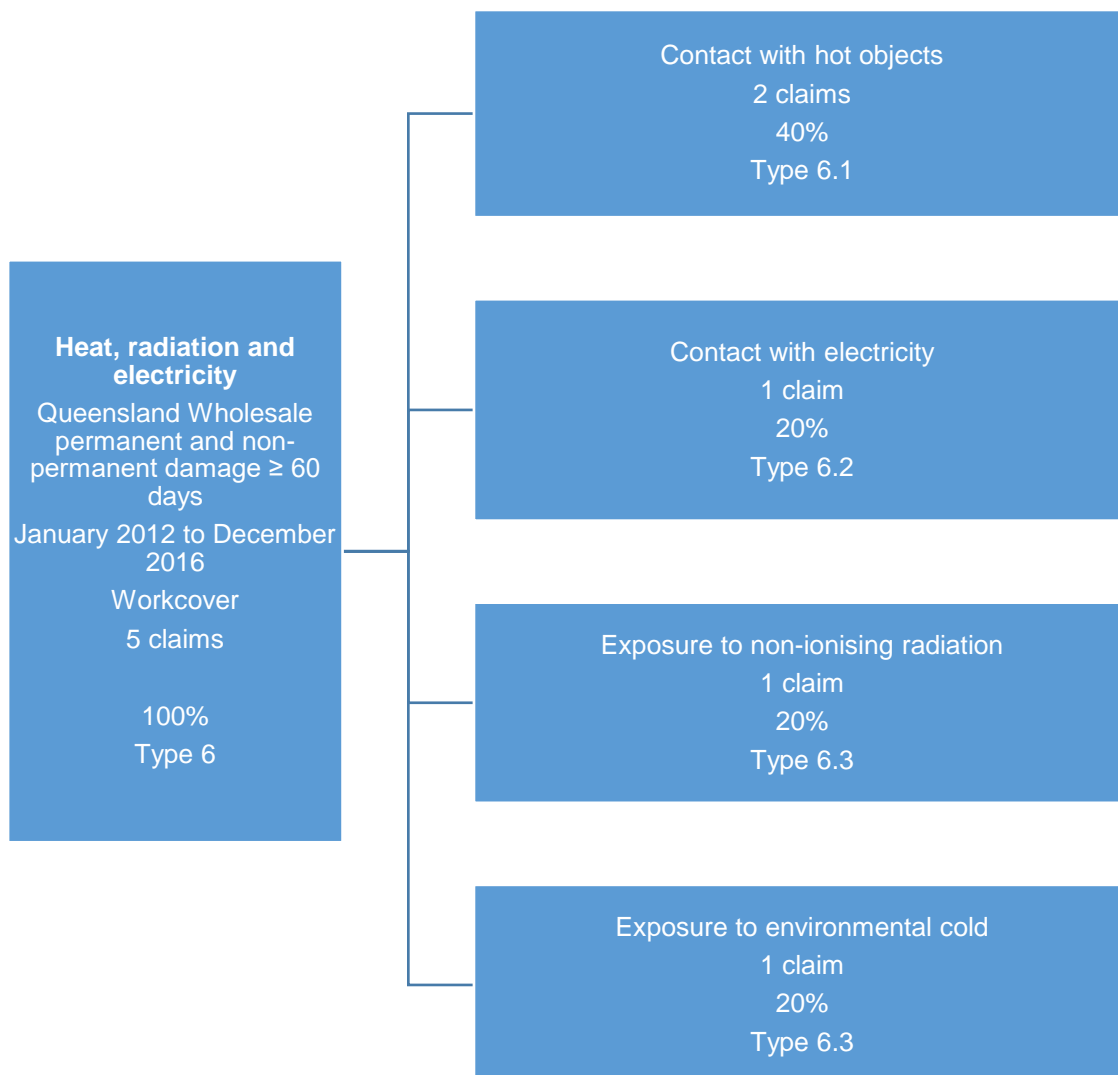
Labourers and Machinery operators and drivers accounted for approximately two-thirds (66 per cent) of claims for this mechanism group and more than half of those claims (59 per cent) were associated with hand, finger or thumb injuries.



4.6 Type 6 – heat, radiation and electricity

Heat, radiation and electricity represents less than one per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims ≥ 60 workdays compensated.

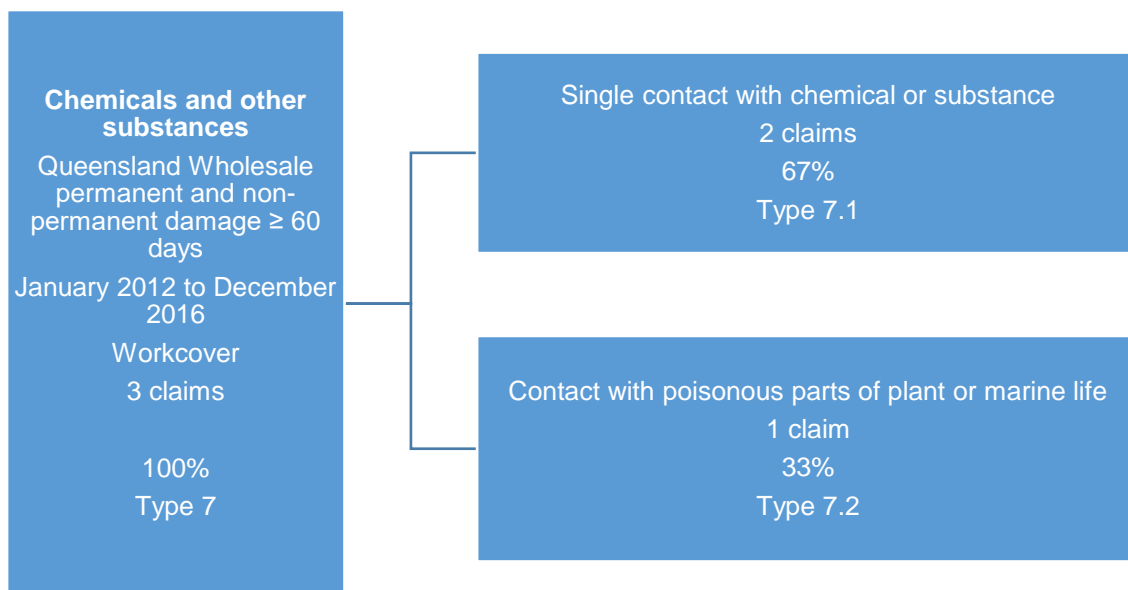
Machinery operators and drivers accounted for two of the five claims. These two claims were associated with an electric shock and a toe amputation.



4.7 Type 7 – chemicals and other substances

Chemicals and other substances represent less than one per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims ≥ 60 workdays compensated.

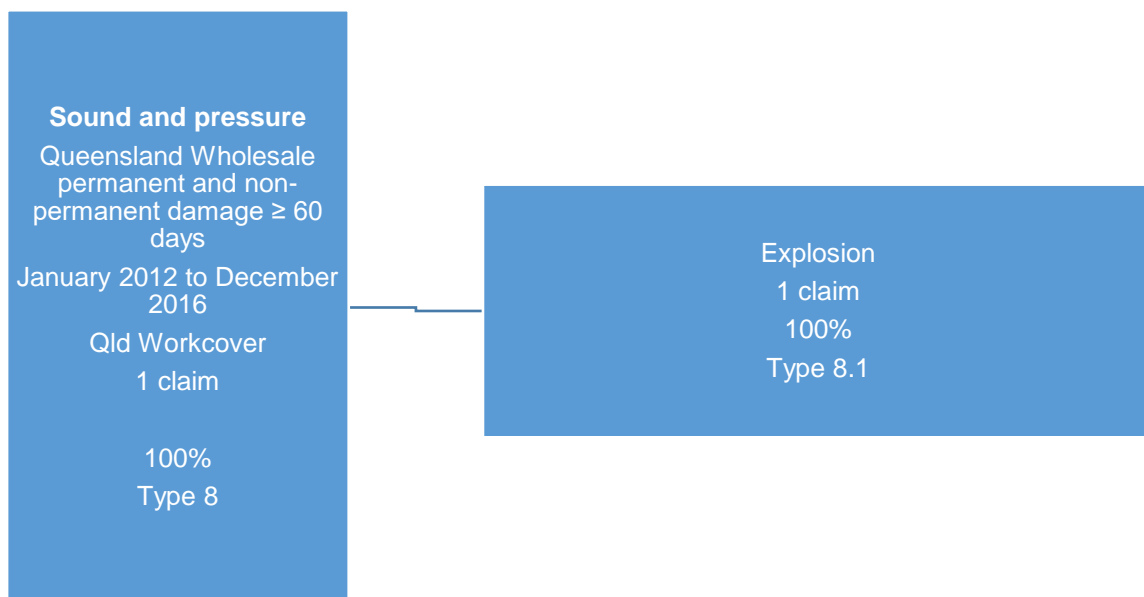
Labourers accounted for two-thirds (67 per cent) of *chemicals and other substances claims*. These two claims were caused by either marine life or industrial gases or fumes.



4.8 Type 8 – sound and pressure

Sound and pressure represent less than one per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims \geq 60 workdays compensated.

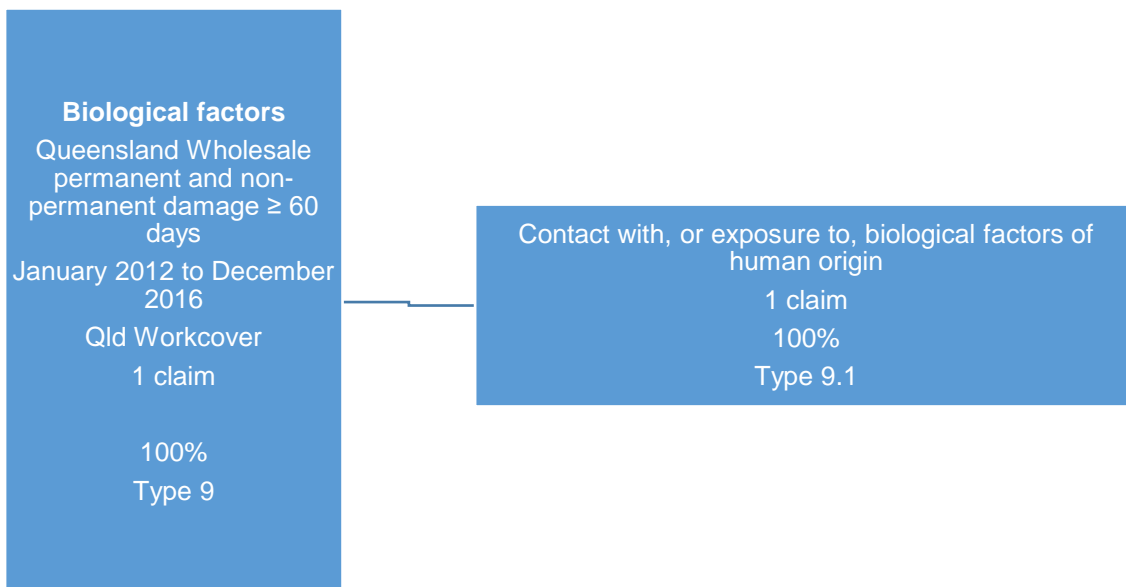
A Stationary plant operator suffered hot burns to multiple locations due to an explosion.



4.9 Type 9 – biological factors

Biological factors represent less than one per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims ≥ 60 workdays compensated.

The claim was for a cleaner or laundry worker.



5. Typology – summary of key findings

Approximately 95 per cent of claims with 60 or more workdays compensated were the result of either body stressing, falls, vehicle incidents or being hit by moving objects.

Body stressing injuries made up half of all relevant Wholesale claims. Almost all *body stressing* injuries were the result of muscle strains while lifting or handling objects. This is not surprising given the physically demanding nature of the Wholesale industry. For example, tasks involving loading and unloading goods.

Falls, trips and slips injuries represent over 20 per cent of all relevant Wholesale claims. *Falls, trips and slips* injuries were mostly the result of a fall at level.

Injuries resulting from *vehicle incidents* represent 14 per cent of all Wholesale claims with 60 or more workdays compensated.

On average, two Wholesale workers a year over the period were fatally injured. Most of the fatalities were the result of a vehicle incident.

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