



UK National Sprayer Testing Scheme

An overview

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Duncan Russell
NSTS Manager

Sprayer Testing Highlights

- Sprayer Testing in UK launched as AEA scheme in 1997
- AEA testing 1500 sprayer annually by end of 2002
- NSTS launched on 01/01/2003 one of the main pillars of the VI
- 2013/14 NSTS tested 15,877 machines pieces of PAE
- NSTS is an annual test of application machinery
- Satisfies SUD – NSTS delegated as body to test PAE in UK
- 86.5% of tests are carried out on machine owners premises/farms

NSTS Protocol

- Originally written by the Chemical Applications Group of the Agricultural Engineers Association
- This Group includes manufacturers and importers of spraying equipment and accessories as well as chemical companies and distributors
- Mirrors or exceeds the requirements of EN13790
- Future changes will mirror or exceed requirements of EN16122

NSTS examiners

- All hold a level 3 Certificate of Competence in Sprayer Examining awarded by the NPTC/City & Guilds
- Training is usually carried out by NSTS – followed by third party assessment for Certificate of Competence
- NSTS Auditors observe 15% of examiners annually



NSTS Audit procedure

- Random audits on examiners – 15% annually
- Observed completing a 'live' test
- Equipment and paper work systems checked – master gauge tested annually
- Report sent to AEA administration – recorded against test centre and examiner
- Various sanctions available – should anything be found

NSTS additional protocols

- Granular applicators – written by NSTS and industry
Qualified examiners, following training and assessment
- Foggers – written by NSTS and industry
Qualified examiners, following training and assessment
- Spray trains – written by NSTS and industry
Qualified examiners, following training and assessment
- Further protocols – being developed
 - Weed-wipers
 - Fixed equipment
 - Soil sterilisation equipment
 - Knapsacks
 - Pedestrian controlled equipment
 - Specialist applicators

NSTS Test Centres

- Recognised by scheme
 - Pay annual registration fee
 - Collect test registration fee from machine owners
 - Comply with NSTS administration requirements
- Have qualified examiners
- Have necessary equipment –
 - Master pressure gauge fitted to manifold to give vertical reading
 - Gauge and various connections to test boom pressures
 - 2lt measuring cylinder with 200ml graduations
 - Stop watch
 - Means of measuring boom levelness
 - Personal protective clothing for examiners
 - Water collection system
 - Supply and service sprayers with access to spares and equipment

NSTS

Test Centres 232

Additional branches 128

Total access points 360

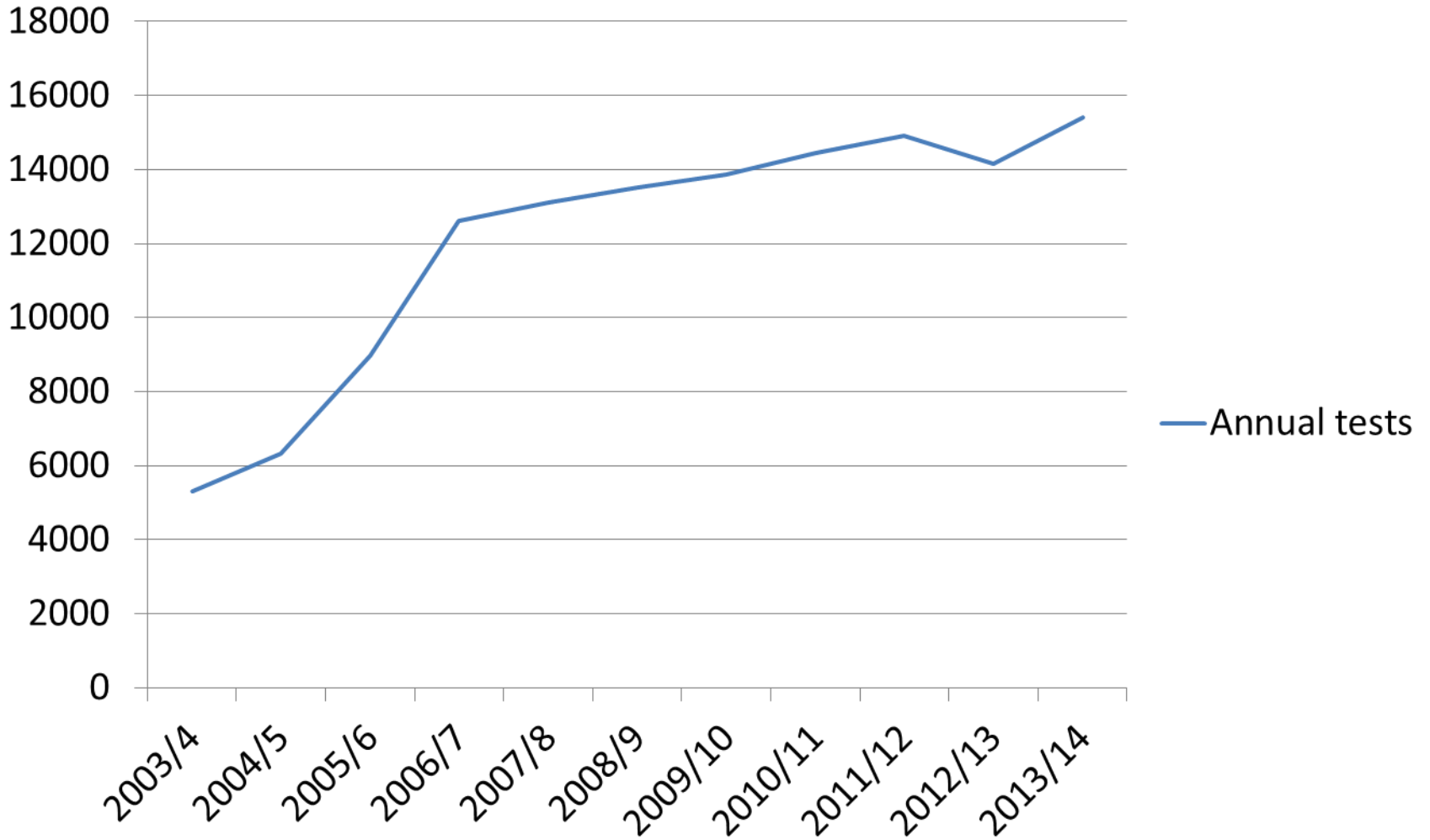
Qualified Examiners (Active) 614

Additional specialist examiners

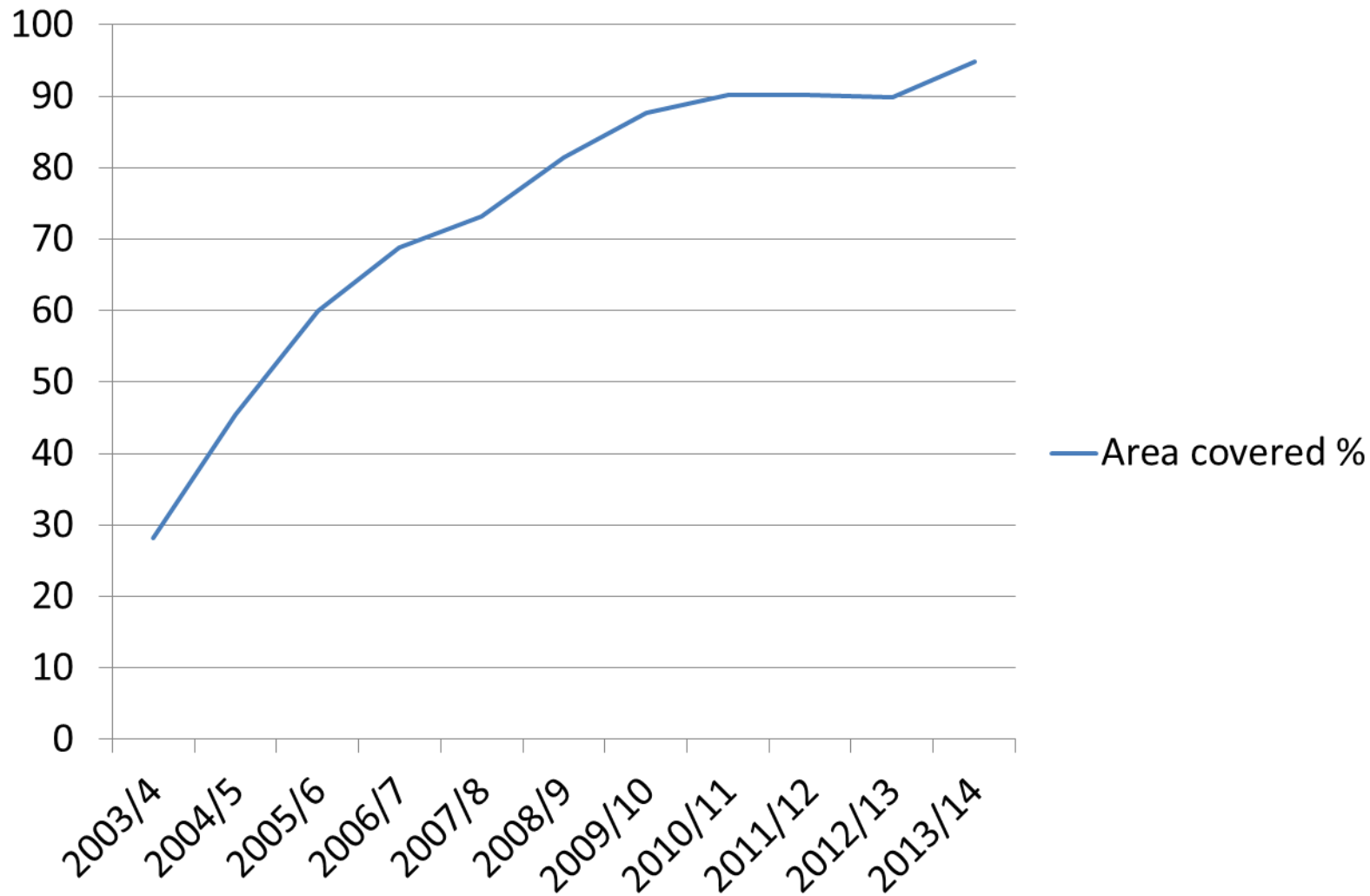
Granular 34

Fogging 6

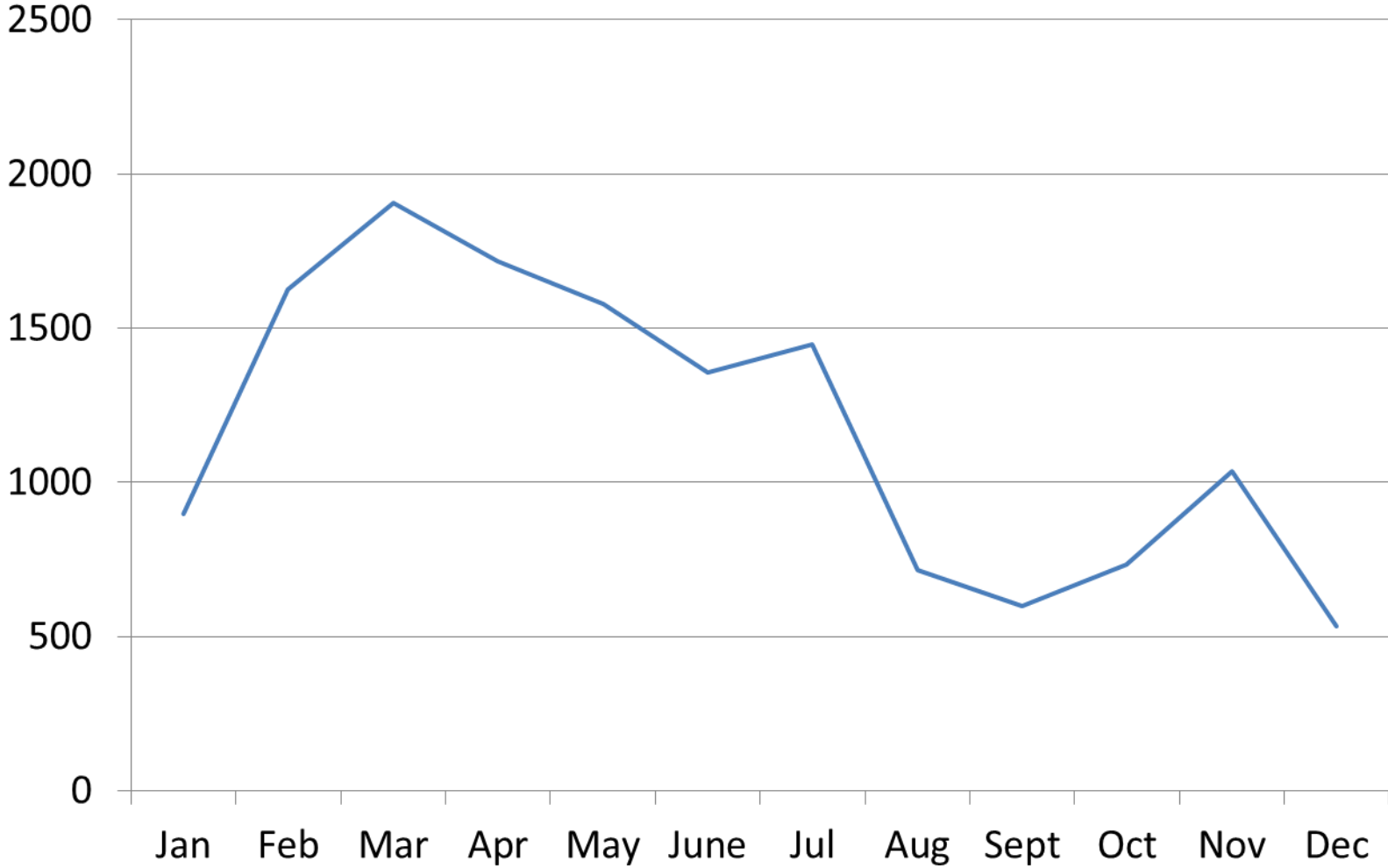
Annual tests



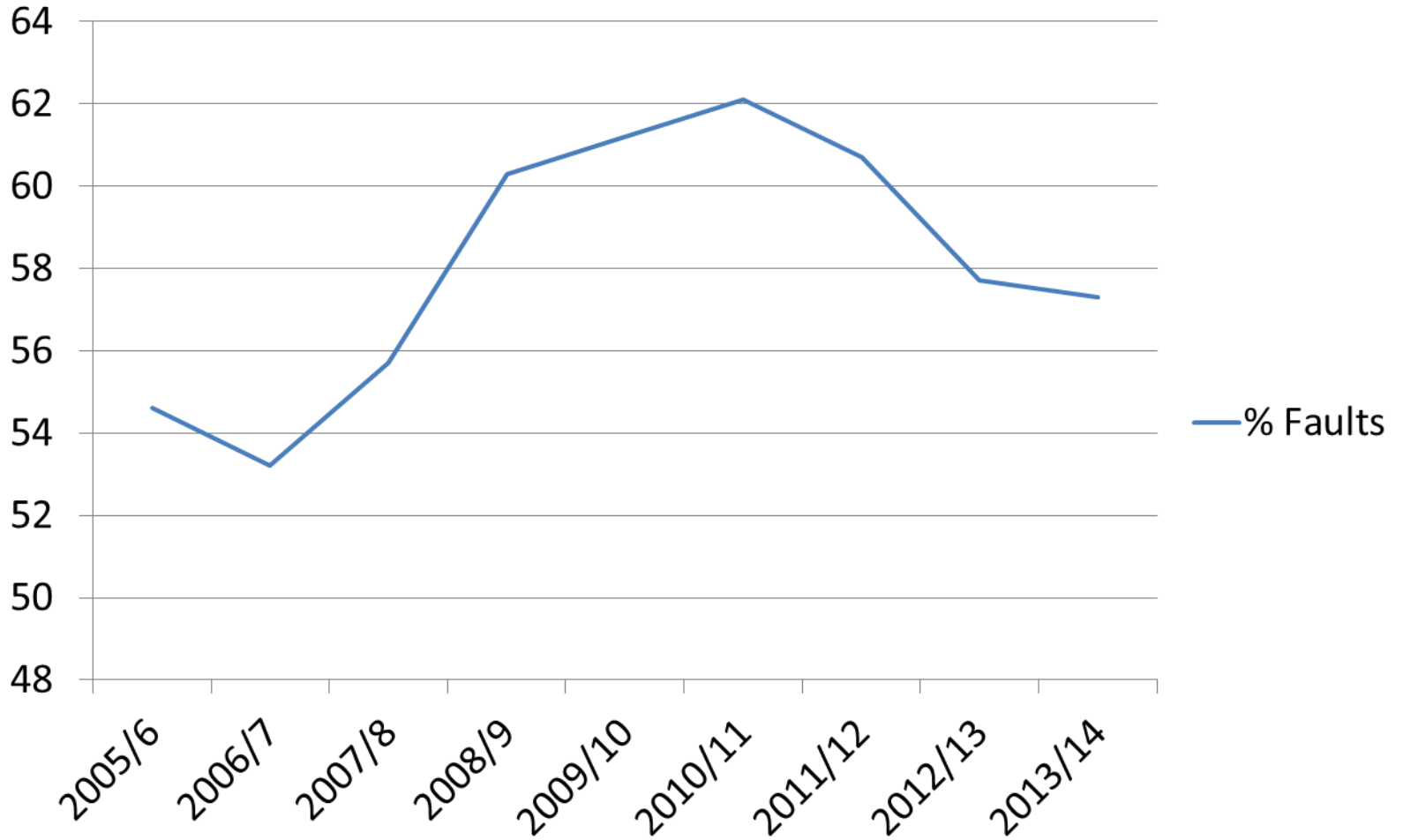
Area covered %

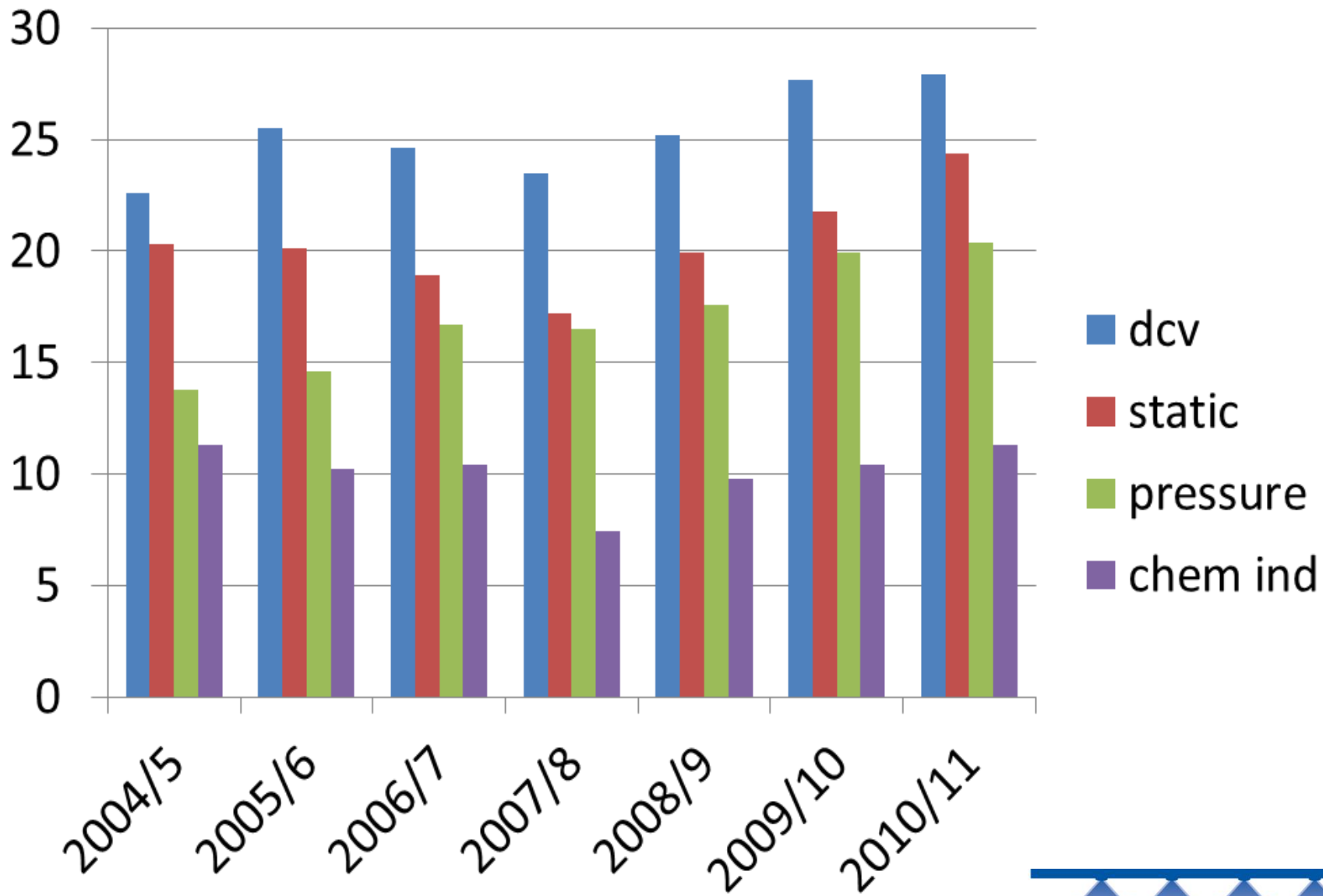


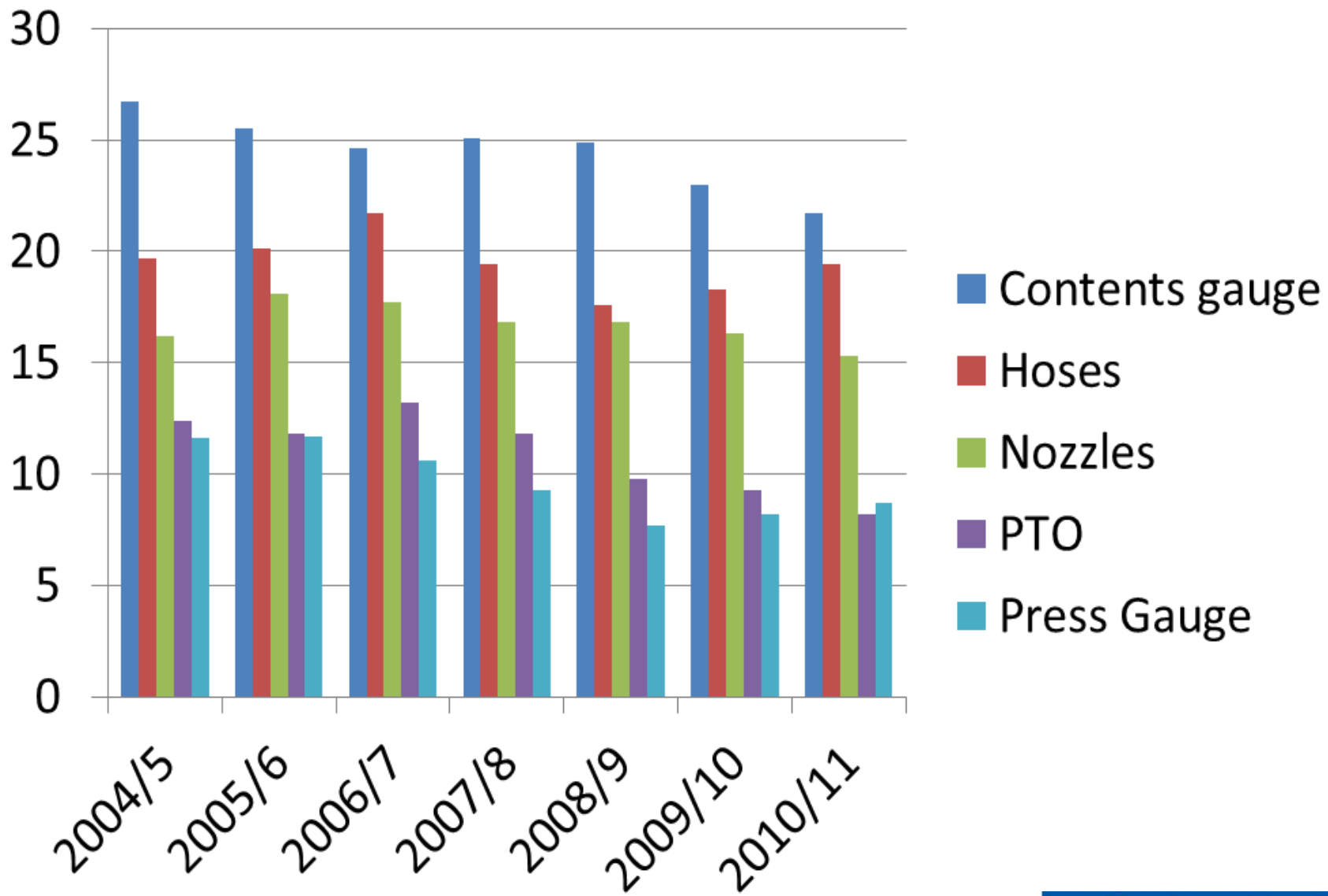
Tests/month

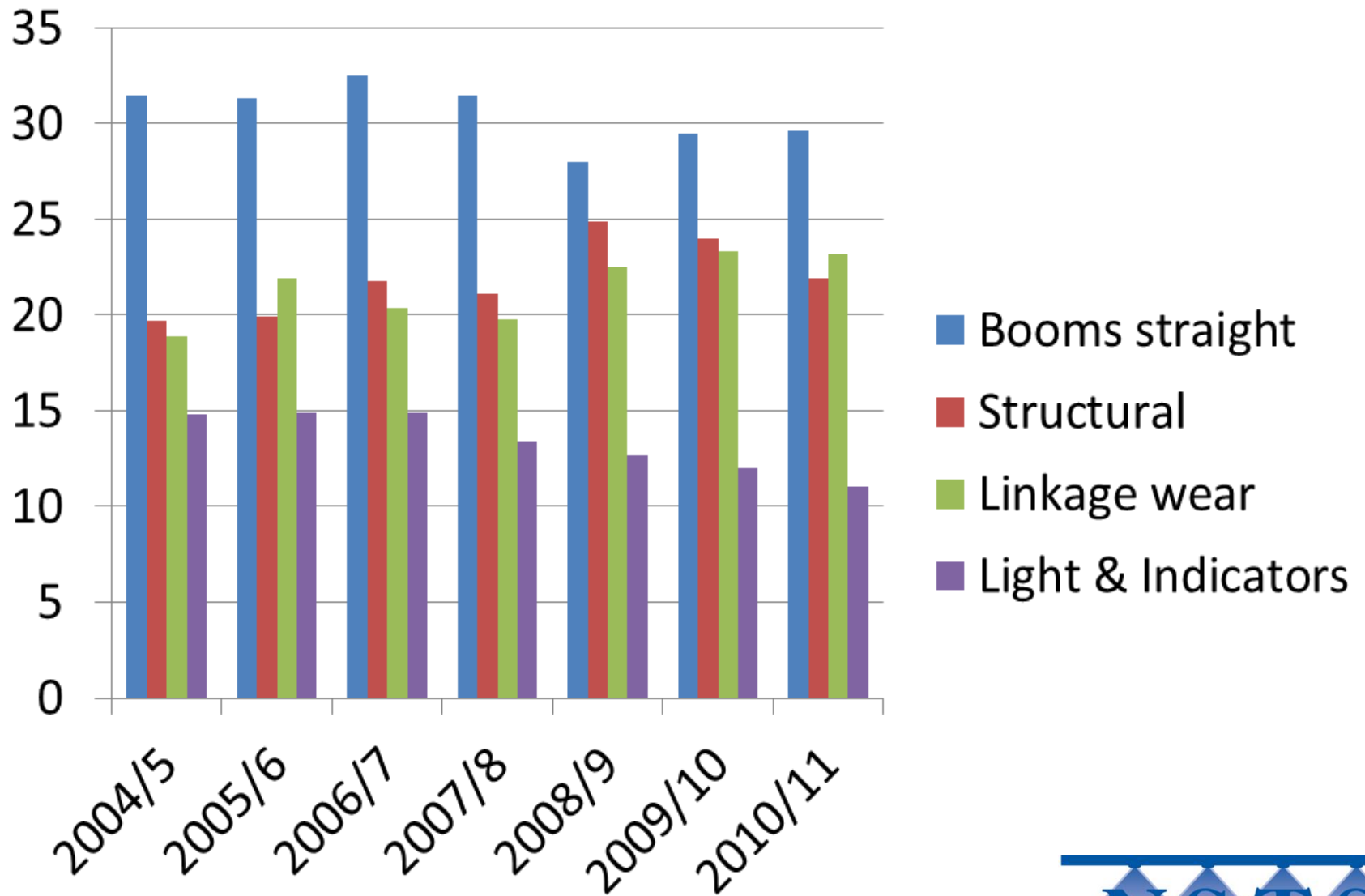


% Faults

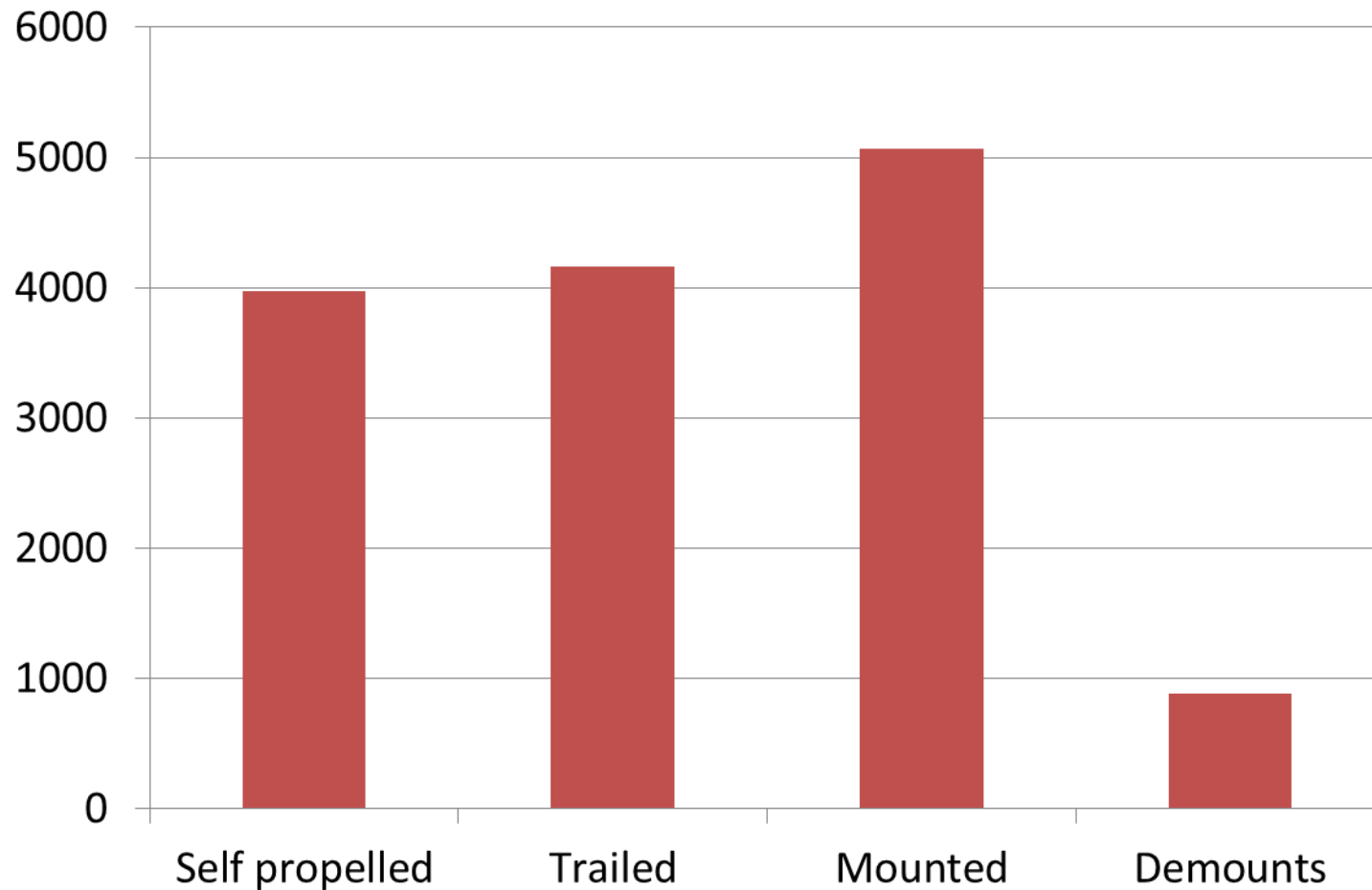




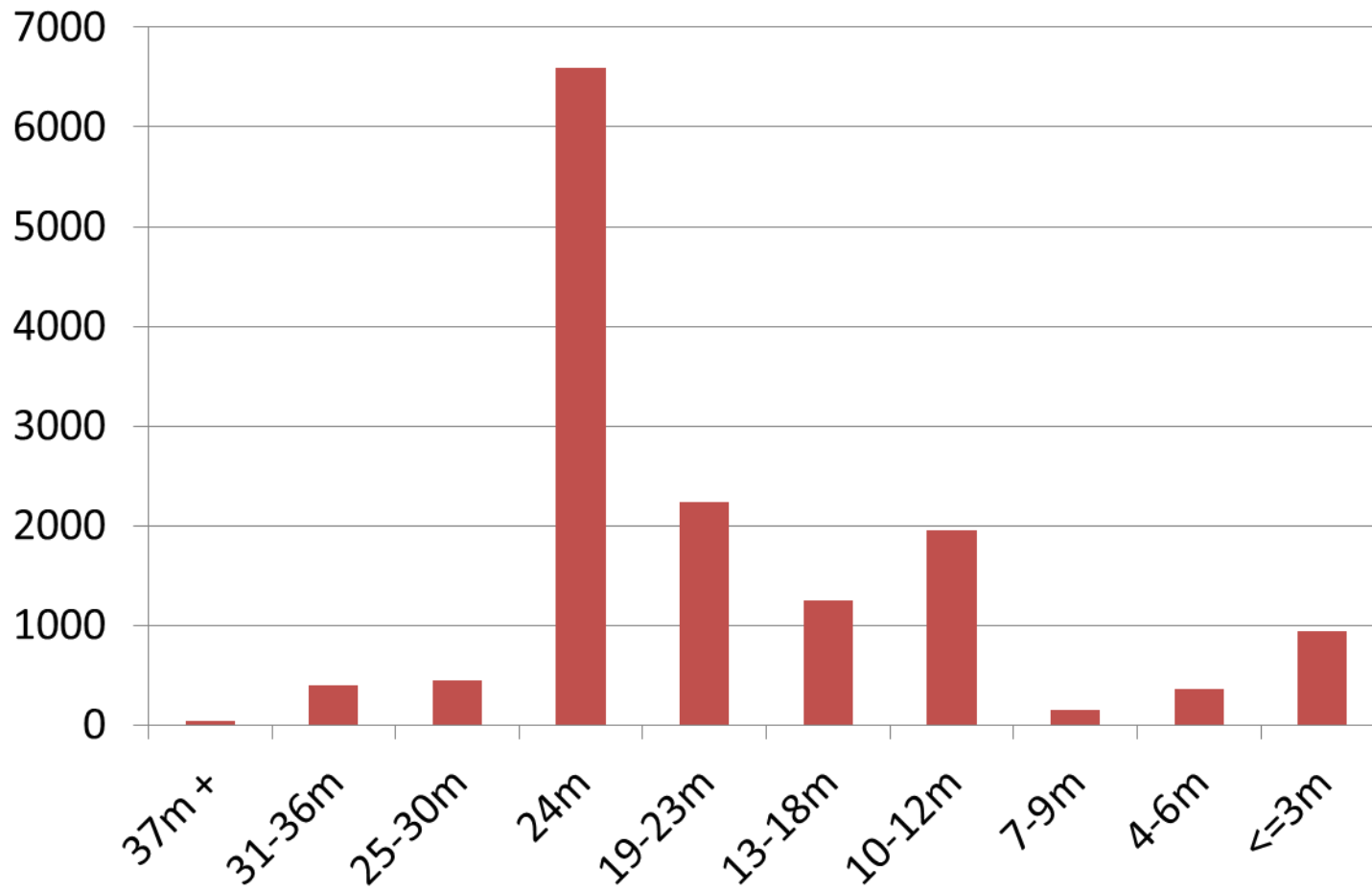




Sprayers by type - agriculture



Boom widths



NSTS

- An annual test – required by the UK Red tractor Assurance scheme and supermarket protocols
- Available for all types of PAE
- Satisfies requirements of SUD – NSTS delegated body for testing in UK
- Commercial at point of use – machine owners have choice of test centre, nearest or preferred
- NSTS keeps database – with access to crop assurance certification bodies for verification purposes
- Robust protocols and systems in place – use electronic data transfer by 2016
- Staff three – Manager, assistant manager, administrator

Thank you for the opportunity

www.nsts.org.uk