

#DriveDangerOut



Quarries
Workplace Transport
Inspection Campaign
2022-2023

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CONTROLLING RISK TOGETHER

2022 Campaign

In Autumn 2022, HSENI Inspectors from the Explosives, Extractive Industries and Waste Group (EEIWG), conducted focused inspections to assess the management of workplace transport risks at quarries across Northern Ireland.

25 Quarries were visited by Inspectors. Each inspection targeted three key areas required to manage workplace transport safely.

SAFE SITE

SAFE VEHICLE

SAFE DRIVER

Quarry Operators were notified of the inspection campaign in July 2022 and provided with an electronic copy of the inspection pro-forma used by Inspectors. The inspection campaign was officially launched in September with the issue of a press release followed by the commencement of inspections.

This document intends to provide an overview of the results of the 2022 Quarry Inspection Campaign, highlighting areas where Operators have demonstrated good control of workplace transport related risk, and those areas where increased focus is required.

Safe Site

Positive observations

- Adequate, strategically placed signage which was clear and informed both pedestrians and drivers about potential hazards at the quarry and what they need to do.
- Safe and suitable parking areas, with parking for work-related vehicles separate from that for private cars.
- Suitable policies in place to prevent children accessing the quarry.
- Edge protection in place on quarry vehicle haul roads- at least 1.5 metres in height or half the diameter of the largest wheel operating in the quarry, whichever is the greater, and as near vertical as possible.
- Procedures in place for small-load customers to ensure adequate segregation from high-risk areas where heavy plant travels.
- Separate pedestrian doors available at sheds/ buildings to prevent persons travelling through vehicle access/ egress routes.
- Workplace transport rules and quarry vehicle rules in place.
- Adequate lighting for operating during hours of darkness.

Opportunity for improvement

- Development of a suitable Traffic Management Plan for the quarry to effectively manage traffic movements and the operation of vehicles.
- The use of one-way systems to limit reversing and prevent conflicting movements caused by 'two-way' traffic flow.
- Demarcation of dedicated, and, where practicable, physically protected pedestrian walkways.
- Provision of suitable barriers or guardrails at the entrance/ exit to sheds and at pedestrian walkways that lead directly onto vehicle routes.
- The use of convex mirrors at sharp/ blind bends to improve visibility.
- Placement of adequate rock traps at the toe of all accessible faces within the quarry.

Safe Vehicle

Positive observations

- Systems in place to complete and record vehicle daily pre-use checks including effective defect reporting procedures.
- Vehicle servicing and maintenance schedules in place.
- Completion of statutory examinations for vehicles and accessories used for lifting (LOLER inspections).
- Vehicles fitted with accessories i.e., mirrors/ cameras to provide all-round visibility for the operator.
- Lap belts worn by the operator during vehicle operation.
- Falling object protective structures (FOPS) fitted to excavators operating at the quarry face.

Opportunity for improvement

- Policies in place to ensure keys are removed from vehicles when not in use to prevent unauthorised use.
- Demarcation of a daily brake testing area for rubber tyred vehicles operating in the quarry to monitor the effectiveness of brakes.
- Completion of electronic brake testing at suitable intervals.
- The use of appropriate methods for cleaning of quarry vehicle cabs to reduce employee exposure to dust including respirable crystalline silica i.e., use of wet wipes, vacuum systems and placement of seat covers on fabric seats.



Safe Driver



Positive observations

- Quarry vehicle operators received adequate training for the vehicle/ plant they are authorised to use.
- Adequate arrangements in place for driver refresher training to ensure ongoing competence.
- Measures in place to prevent persons falling from height from vehicles during loading/ unloading activities.

2023 Campaign

Following the 2022 Inspection Campaign, Inspectors from HSENI EEIWG will recommence focused workplace transport inspections at Northern Ireland quarries from 14th June 2023. Inspections will again focus on the three key areas required to manage workplace transport effectively: safe site, safe vehicle, and safe driver.

The inspection template used by Inspectors during these visits can be downloaded via the HSENI website at

www.hseni.gov.uk/quarry-inspection-proforma

Practical guidance on how you may manage work related transport risks on site can be found in HSG136- 'A guide to workplace transport safety'. This is available at:

www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg136.pdf

Vehicles at work continue to be a major cause of fatal and major injuries in Northern Ireland. Throughout the last ten years, 34 people have lost their life through workplace transport incidents and 162 people were seriously injured. Every workplace must be safe for the people and vehicles using it.

#DriveDangerOut

Safe Driver | Safe Site | Safe Vehicle

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