

Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the QNJAC committee held on Monday 22 June 2009 in HSE's London Office, Rose Court.

Present:

David Allan	MPQC	Dave Morgan	TUC
Roy Bush	HSE	Tracey Oliva	HSE
Lynda Chase-Gardener	SMEs	Mike Phillips	IoQ
Geoff Cox	HSE	Robert Powell	CEA
Martin Isles	MPA	Andy Price	KABCA
Ivan Ivanovic	Burlington Slate	Neal Reynolds	GMB
Brian James	SAMSA	Brian Rostron	COALPRO
Steve Jones	MPA	Phil Smith	HSE
John Lewis	Geological Society	David Wootton	CEA

Apologies:

Steve Biddle	RHA	Patrick Griffin	HSA
Steve Cole	SMEs	Roseanne Hayward	MPQC
Helmut Ehnes	Atlantic Alliance	Malcolm Mellow	Unite
Tim Faithfull	CEA	Francis Morrall	BCC
Patrick Foster	IMM	John Myers	Stone Fed
Ian Glendinning	BAA	Lex Russell	MPA
Rory Graham	Atlantic Alliance		

Item 1 – Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the extraordinary meeting of the QNJAC, held to discuss specifically the proposed 'Guidance on Safe Face Management Operations in Quarries'.

Welcome to Dave Morgan who replaces Susan Murray on the committee.

Item 2 – Guidance on Safe Face Management Operations in Quarries

Introduction – Steve Jones

Following the lengthy drafting process for the tripartite 'Control of Face and Stockpile Operations' guidance, the working group have revised their approach and now propose to issue a series of information sheets under the title 'Geotechnics, Face and Stockpile

Operations' with the first of these being 'Guidance on Safe Face Management Operations in Quarries'.

The revised approach allows a complex topic to be broken down into 'bite-size' chunks; facilitates the generation of further information sheets and brings clarity to the Quarry Regulations 1999 and Approved Code of Practice (ACoP).

QNJAC – Member comments

The committee agreed the following amendments:

- All acronyms will be expanded – Sections 5, 7, 12 apply
- Section 3 – change 'management' to 'maintenance'
- Section 4 – 'which include loose materials falling onto people and plant below *insert fullstop It may also result in* an inability ...'
- Section 7(g) – change 'is' to 'are'
- Section 8 – reinforce in Section 8 the need to have considered Section 7 first
- Section 8 – first paragraph, change 'plant' to 'machine' to remain consistent with the terminology in the diagram
- Section 8 (a) – change 'Site-Specific' to 'Site-specific'
- Section 8 (diagram) – increase the font size of the diagram and amend to be more proportionate
- Section 9 (a) – change 'Tip' to 'Tips'
- Section 12c – 'the quarry design should address how the above alternative methods *insert (see 8(a) & (b))* can be implemented ...'

The committee discussed in further detail Section 8 and the use of the sentence '*The working methods described below have an established good safety record*' – Mr Lewis wished to clarify the evidence base for using the term '*established*'.

Mr Jones stated the working group having considered and discussed using the term agreed that the two methods identified in the guidance are current industry good practice and have a sufficient evidence base to warrant any scrutiny. It was also agreed that amendments could be made to this section of the guidance if better methods were identified in the future.

Mr Bush concurred there is evidence to support using the term 'established' and is content with the wording.

It was agreed the wording would remain the same; however, this point would be highlighted at the planned seminars, and would be explicitly recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

Pending amendments, the guidance was ratified by the committee.

Guidance cover

The committee agreed the guidance should carry the company logos of all representatives on QNJAC.

Future information sheets

For discussion at the October meeting.

- Information sheet 2 Appointment of geotechnical assessments
Quarry development plans
Excavations and Taps rules
Training Course availability
- Information sheet 3 Stockpile management and operations
Vehicle management planning

Item 3 – ‘Face Maintenance’ seminars

It was agreed five seminars would be held throughout the UK (London, Bristol, Nottingham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Stirling) to promote the new guidance. In addition, the seminars will also cover the reporting requirements of employee exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) under the Social Dialogue Agreement (SDA).

The seminars are expected to commence in November 2009.

Item 4 – L118 ACoP revisions

The committee discussed briefly the proposed revisions to the Quarries ACoP. It was suggested that the scope of the revision could be expanded to ensure consistency is achieved throughout the publication and that the working group should consider if it is appropriate to include quotes from other Regulations, as this does not provide an interpretation of the law.

Actions

- All To send Tracey Oliva their company logos
- John Lewis To amend the diagram under Section 8 and send to Phil Smith
- Phil Smith To amend the guidance document and circulate to QNJAC members
To investigate the possibility of HSE funding to assist the delivery of the seminars
To feedback comments to the L118 ACoP revisions working group
- Martin Isles Pending final clearance to upload on to safe quarry.com
- Roy Bush Pending final clearance to include in the next edition of Quarry Fact File