

Health and Safety Executive		Sector Information Minute	
Policy Group Manufacturing		SIM 03/2005/09	
Cancellation Date	23/05/2009	Open Government Status	Fully Open
Version No & Date	1: 23/05/2005	Author Unit/Section	Manufacturing Sector

Target Audience:
Inspectors with Quarries Responsibilities

MISFIRES

This SIM advises inspectors of the role of the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) in the investigation of misfires at quarries and new budgeting arrangements which have been made for their support.

1 Each year the Metals and Minerals Sector seeks information from inspectors (with responsibility for quarries inspection) on the details and causes of any misfires in their division. The Sector is aware that when HSL has been asked to help in such investigations (and in particular carry out laboratory examination of the equipment to determine the precise cause of failure) difficulties have sometimes arisen with divisional budgets. To resolve this problem arrangements have been agreed with HSL: when inspectors require HSL assistance with these investigations they should contact Dave Pickering, HSL, tel: 524 8151; fax: 524 8162 or Dave Chapman, HSL, tel: 524 8148; fax: 524 8162.

2 Where inspectors are of the opinion that product failure is involved in a misfire and there is a realistic opportunity of determining the cause, arrangements should be made with HSL (contact as above) for the collection and testing of equipment. Such assistance is anticipated when there is:

- 1) failure of an actual detonator - shock tube or electric;
- 2) failure of a detonator to initiate a primer;
- 3) failure of shocktube to propagate a shock, excluding surface damage and cut-off problems;
- 4) any other interesting situations due to the failure of manufacturers' products.

3 Further advice on this matter can be obtained from Rob Pearce, Quarries Group, Manufacturing Sector, Cardiff, tel: 511 3111.

Date first issued: 23/05/2005