

# Health & Safety in the Quarry Industry

## Revitalising Health & Safety – The National Targets

20% reduction in rate of work related ill health (10% by 2004)

10% reduction in rate of fatalities and major injuries (5% by 2004)

30% reduction in rate of working days lost (15% by 2004)

'Revitalising Health & Safety' (RHS) - is a 10-year strategy to improve health and safety at work, launched jointly by the Government and Health and Safety Commission on 7 June 2000.

The targets are for the health and safety system as a whole, not just for HSC or HSE. Everyone engaged in work, be they trade associations, employers, trades unions and workers need to think what they can do to deliver them.

### Health & Safety in the Quarry Industry

The quarry industry fatality rate in June 2000 averaged three times that of construction. The industry had the highest injury rate of any industry.

In the ten-year period 1991/92 to 2000/01 over 3,036 workers in the quarry industry suffered an injury reportable to HSE and there were 19 fatal injuries.

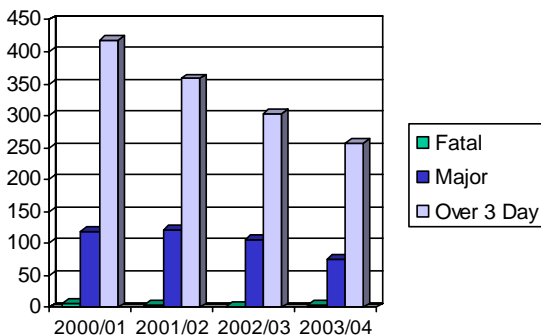
The Government's "Revitalising Health and Safety" Strategy is about injecting new impetus into health and safety in all workplaces. In June 2000, the Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee adopted the Hard Target of halving the number of accidents in the industry by 2005.



**"The industry's commitment to improving health and safety is evident through the dramatic results of its Hard Target campaign."**

**Justin McCracken - HSE Acting Chief Executive**

**QUARRYING INDUSTRY 2000/04**



The 46% reduction in injury in four years includes:

- 45% reduction in musculo-skeletal injury;
- 72% reduction in falls from height;
- 26% reduction in slips, trips and falls; and
- 68% reduction in struck by vehicles.

**The UK Quarry industry** consists of a small number of large companies, who produce the majority of aggregates, coal, slate and industrial minerals; and a large number of small and medium sized companies who employ over 50% of the workforce.

**The Hard Target Initiative** is a collective name for a number of strategic actions, including improving the health and safety competence of managers and worker representatives, raising awareness of contractors, providing guidance for small and medium sized companies and targeting company and HSE inspections on the causes of major injuries.



**The Hard Target Initiative** - has so far resulted in the injury rate being reduced by 46% (2000-2004). There is a balanced set of strategic objectives that contribute to the achievement of the target:

### 1. Education and training

Major education and training initiatives are under way across the industry to improve competence and raise health and safety performance.

### 2. Key Groups and Processes

This refers to work under way to influence key groups such as Chief Executive Officers and employee representatives, and to ensure that effective control measures are in place at high-risk plant, such as vehicles and conveyors, and processes, such as explosives and geotechnics.

### 3. Promotional and Enforcement Activity

Various publicity initiatives are being taken forward on quarry health and safety, with a programme of topic inspections in addition to HSE's normal rigorous enforcement of appropriate standards. Articles in Quarry Fact File provide practical information in support of this programme.

Topics covered so far have included: Falls from height, tip and excavation rules, provision and use of seatbelts, stability of tips and excavations, quarry design and competence

**“Since the launch of the Hard Target Initiative in 2000, the industry has achieved a 46% reduction in accidents.”**

### Next Steps - Target Zero

Following the success of the Hard Target Initiative, the next stage (2005-2010) will be to achieve a further 50% reduction in injuries by 2010 with the ultimate aim of zero incidents by 2015.

This is based on assured competence of the whole industry, addressing the underlying causation of injury at quarries rather than the symptoms. Evaluation of the current Hard Target campaign has shown this to enable continued reduction in injury, both in occupational health and in safety. It offers the potential of a sustainable improvement and an industry that can be self-regulating.

The project is based on the principles of the HSC "Strategy for 2010 and beyond", working in partnership with all stakeholders who can make a difference.

The project maximises the involvement of stakeholders and intermediaries as much as possible, so that HSE effort can be used on priority areas. Partnership working is mutually beneficial to the organisations involved, and this together with the emphasis on achieving a fully competence assured industry enables the industry to become progressively more self-sustaining and self-regulating.

We also share with our Atlantic Alliance partners existing guidance (where suitable), and utilise their research outputs and best practice programmes. UK research is carried out using Universities with other partners, including Government and European funding.

### Achievability of the objective

Setting a target for such an initiative is by its nature an educated guess. In this case, however, the first part of the project, the Hard Target Initiative 2000-2005 has exceeded its interim indicators to date, having achieved a 46% reduction after 4 years with a very high probability of successfully reaching the target of 50% in 5 years.

For more details on the Target Zero initiative please visit the HSE website on the following link <http://www.hse.gov.uk/quarries/programme.htm>.