

# WORKER REPRESENTATIVES:

If we are to reduce accidents and achieve the Hard Target then we must work together to improve the conditions at our own quarries. At your monthly safety meetings why not look at the issues below, compare the controls set out in the Health and Safety Document with those in your work place and ensure you work in a safe and healthy place?

## Manual handling

Manual handling accounts for 27% of all accidents in quarries. If we are to achieve the Hard Target of cutting all accidents by 50%, then we have to address this issue.

### Do you lift or move heavy loads?

The following is a guide to carrying out risk assessments of manual handling operations at quarries.

### Do you handle bagged products?

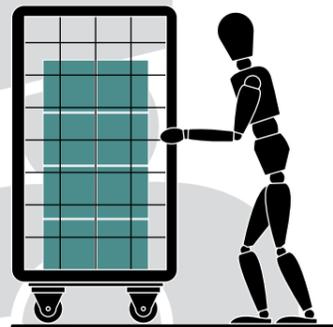
Use auto-bagging/palletising systems, lifting aids such as vacuum lifters, conveyors, and forklifts. If this is not possible, reduce the weight of the bags you use.

### Do you handle drums?

Replace with bulk delivery systems, use large wheel trolleys designed to wheel and tip the drums with ease. Ensure that the ground surface is level so that the trolley can be moved easily.

### How heavy is the material?

Use containers that restrict the amount of material to weights that can be easily handled, for example less than 20 kg. Wherever possible use machines for lifting and carrying.

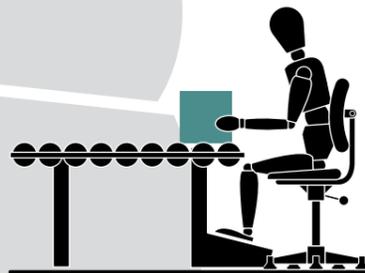


### Do you have to push or pull loads?

Can they be moved by machine? Use trolleys with large wheels and well-maintained ground conditions.

### Don't forget your stores and workshops

Do you have well-designed workstations with lifting aids such as tyre handlers?



### Maintenance

Do you have good access? Has the machine been designed for ease of maintenance? Can you use lifting aids such as gantries, cranes or telehandlers?

### Cleaning tasks

Design out the problem. Fit and maintain scrapers on conveyors, maintain enclosure hoods. Use vacuum/water/mechanical methods to move spillage.



# Reduce accidents and ill health

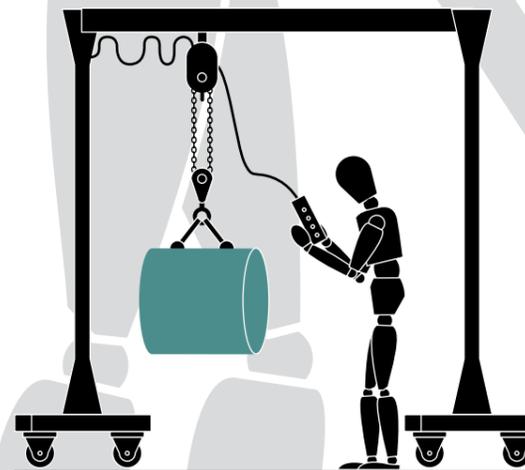
## Carrying

Use the correct equipment. Hire it in if necessary. Cranes and telehandlers should be used. Wheel loaders should only be used if they are designed for material handling – the bucket is removed and proper handling devices fitted.



## Awkward loads

These need special risk assessments to find out the best way of assessing the weight and lifting the load.



## Falls from heights

### Do you work on a quarry face?

You should not approach within 5 m of an unprotected face. The face edge protection should be put up before shotfiring operations begin, such as surveying, marking out the holes etc. If you cannot do this, then fall protection equipment must be worn until the face edge protection is erected.

### Do you have to gain temporary access at height?

A ladder is only a means of access. If you are to work at height you must use an access system, for example scaffolding, MEWP or modified telehandlers.

## Slips, trips and falls

### What are the ground conditions like?

Use delineated access ways and keep them free of loose materials, with level drained surfaces. Clean up oil spillages etc. Salt routes in winter when ice is forming.

### Do you have access to machinery and mobile plant?

Always keep three points of contact when climbing on and off machinery. Ensure that the bottom step is well maintained and not bent or broken. Ensure that handrails are in good condition. Clean mud and debris off boots before climbing iron rungs. Do you have designated parking areas with access aids?

### What condition are the access ways on fixed plant?

Keep them free of spillage and materials, practice good housekeeping. Are stairs and ladders well maintained and free from damage? Has the plant been inspected to ensure that there is no significant corrosion?

### Is there sufficient lighting?

Is there adequate lighting, particularly in stairwells and dark sides of buildings?

