

#DriveDangerOut



Quarries
Workplace Transport
Inspection Campaign
2023-2024

hseⁿⁱ
CONTROLLING RISK TOGETHER

2023 Campaign

From June to August 2023, 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. This inspection initiative followed on from the 2022 inspection initiative whereby 25 quarries were inspected and formed part of HSENI's 'Drive Danger Out' campaign.

20 quarries were inspected during the 2023 initiative. In total 45 quarries have been inspected as part of the inspection initiative. Each inspection targeted three key areas required to manage workplace transport safely.

SAFE SITE

SAFE VEHICLE

SAFE DRIVER



Dutyholders were notified of the inspection initiative in June 2023 via email and press-release. The Quarry Industry was provided with an electronic copy of the inspection pro-forma used by Inspectors. This was also made available on the HSENI website.

This document intends to provide an overview of the results of the 2023 Inspection Campaign, highlighting areas where dutyholders 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 greatest), and as near vertical as possible - suitable rock traps at the toe of accessible faces within the quarry
- workplace transport rules and quarry vehicle rules in place
- separate pedestrian doors available at sheds / buildings to prevent persons travelling through vehicle access / egress routes
- adequate lighting for operating during hours of darkness
- roadways well designed with surfaces maintained

Opportunity for improvement

- development of a suitable Traffic Management Plan for the site to effectively manage traffic movements and the operation of vehicles
- completion of an adequate workplace transport risk assessment which is specific to the site and has been communicated to employees
- 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 one-way systems to limit reversing and prevent conflicting movements caused by 'two-way' traffic flow, including the introduction of reverse parking policies

SAFE VEHICLE

Positive observations

- vehicle servicing and maintenance schedules in place
- vehicles fitted with accessories i.e., mirrors / cameras to provide all-round visibility for the operator
- Statutory Examinations (LOLER examinations) completed for vehicles and accessories used for lifting
- keys removed from vehicles when not in use to prevent unauthorised use
- vehicles fitted with horns, lights, reflectors, and beacons
- vehicle cabs maintained in a clean condition with lap belts available and used - drivers remaining in vehicle cab during loading / unloading activities
- systems in place to complete periodic electronic brake testing for rubber tyred vehicles
- face excavators fitted with suitable falling objective protective structures (FOPs)

Opportunity for improvement

- supervision of vehicle daily pre-use check procedures to ensure they are being completed, defects are reported and addressed promptly to ensure ongoing vehicle safety
- demarcation of a dedicated daily brake testing area at the quarry for operators of rubber-tyred vehicles to monitor the effectiveness of vehicle brakes



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

HSENI enforcement action

1. Six Prohibition Notices were served by Inspectors during the 2023 Inspection Initiative
2. One Improvement Notice was served by Inspectors during the 2023 Inspection Initiative
3. All enforcement notices were served in relation to access to dangerous parts of machinery

Further resources

Information on the HSENI 'Drive Danger Out' Campaign can be found on the HSENI website at the following link:


- [HSENI - Drive Danger Out Campaign 2023-2024](#)

Resources to assist the quarry industry in implementing suitable workplace transport controls can be found on the HSENI website at the following link:

- [HSENI - Quarry sector resource list](#)

The inspection template used by Inspectors during the 2023 Inspection Initiative can be found on the HSENI website at the following link:

- [HSENI - Quarries inspection proforma](#)



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

Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland

83 Ladas Drive
Belfast, BT6 9FR
Helpline: 0800 0320 121
Email: mail@hse.gov.uk
Web: www.hse.gov.uk

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