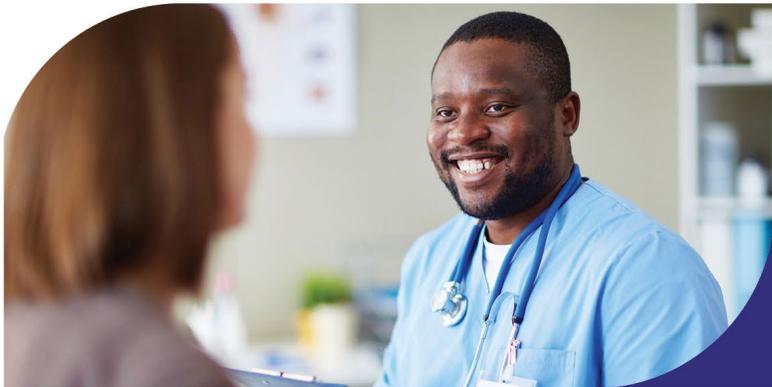




# HSA

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority

## Summary of Amendments to SHWW (Quarries Regulations) 2025



# Background

- The Safety Health & Welfare at Work (Quarry) Regulations 2008 were reviewed in 2013-2014
- Review included a Public Consultation in 2014
- Four submissions were received
- Drafting recommenced in 2023
- .Presentation to Stakeholders in December 2024 outlining main changes and timeline for feedback

# Aim of The Review

- Legislative Updates
- Improve safety in quarrying sector
- Align Regulation to technological advancements in the industry
- This presentation provides an overview of the main changes
- *Note some minor wording changes have not been included*

# Structure of New Regulation

- Part 1 Preliminary and General
  - Part 2 Safety and Health Management
  - Part 3 General Safety Provisions
  - Part 4 Safety Provisions for Ancillary Activities and Installations
  - Part 5 explosives
  - Part 6 Safety of Excavations (including quarry faces), Tips and Lagoons
  - Part 7 General Health Hazards
  - Part 8 Welfare
- 
- Schedule 1: QSCS
  - Schedule 2: Notifications and Approved Forms
  - Schedule 3 : Vehicles Requiring Devices and Visual Aids
  - Schedule 4 : Geotechnical Assessment

# Part 1 Preliminary and General

# New Definitions

- ANBI - **new**
- Blasting Explosive - **new**
- Cap Sensitive - **new to reflect update use of explosives**
- Explosive Article - **new**
- Explosive Store - **amended to suit quarry operations**
- Haul Road - **new**
- Inspection - **new**
- On-site-mixing - **new**

# New Definitions

- Permanent Cessation of Quarry Operations - **defined**
- Temporary Cessation of Quarry Operations - **defined**
- Quarrying Operations - **defined**
- Quarry Skills Certification Scheme - **defined**

## Removed

- Member state
- Preparation for sale
- Safety Fuse
- Vehicle and Traffic Rules

# Regulation 3 – Definition of Quarry

## Regulation 3 (1) (e) and (f) - *new*

- (e) any road within the quarry, other than a public road, used in connection with the extraction and preparation for sale of minerals from the quarry
- (f) any conveyor, pipeline or means of conveyance of minerals or waste materials to a preparation area, tip, stockpile or lagoon;

Everything else under existing 3(1) same

## Regulation 3(2)(c) *wording changed but same affect*

- quarry does not include ...”the excavation of minerals within the identified boundary of a construction site where the mineral extracted is used exclusively within that site”
- *2008 Regulations : An excavation or system of excavations made in the carrying out of construction work within the meaning of the S,H,W (Construction) Regulations 2013*

## Part 2 Safety & Health Management



## Regulation 6 Appointment of Operator and Regulation 8 Notification to Authority

- Same requirements but now includes new approved forms, AFQ1 and AFQ2 in Schedule 2

## Regulation 9 General Duties of Operator

- 9(3) is new - duties of Operator currently in existing Regulation 10(1)( c) moved to 9(3)

## Regulation 10: Management Structure

- 10(b) New - Temporary Manager in absence of Manager

“The operator shall establish a management structure and shall appoint...“a person or persons who is or are competent to perform the functions of the quarry manager under these Regulations to be the temporary quarry manager or temporary quarry managers, as the case may be, in the absence of the quarry manager”

# Regulation 11: General Duties of Quarry Manager

## Regulation 11\*

- Quarry Manager Duties separated from Reg 10 (Management Structure) in 2008 Regs

## Regulation 11(d) is new

- “The quarry manager (or temporary quarry manager, as the case may be) appointed under Regulation 10 shall....  
(d) be available at all times during quarrying operations.”

(\*Note: Regulation numbering changes from here)

# Regulation 12: Safety Statement

Regulation 12 (1) and (2) **same** but **different numbering** of regulations mentioned within.

Regulation 12 (3) **new**

- “The operator shall ensure that -
  - (a) all measures that are required to be taken under the safety statement are taken,
  - (b) any plans included in the safety statement are followed, and
  - (c) each person in the management structure referred to in Regulation 10 shall perform the duties assigned to him or her in the safety statement so as to protect the safety, health and welfare of persons at work at the quarry”

# Regulation 13: Coordinated Measures

## Regulation 13(2) new

“Every employer of persons at work at a quarry and every person at work at a quarry shall co-operate with the operator, or the common operator, as the case may be, to the extent necessary to enable that operator to comply with the relevant statutory provisions”.

# Regulation 15: Instructions, Rules and Operating Procedures **HSA**

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## Regulation 15(a) – amendment

- The operator shall ensure that
- (a) **written instructions** specifying rules to be observed and operating procedures are in place at the quarry with a view to securing the safety and health of persons at work and the safe use of work equipment,

# Regulation 19: Record Keeping

**Regulation 19 (3)** refers to permanent cessation and records to be kept for 6 years

- **breaks down existing Regulation 18(1)(a) of 2008 Regulations** on record keeping to clarify the requirement

# Part 3 General Safety Provisions

### Regulation 20: Inspection Maintenance and Testing.

- 20 (5) **Definition of “inspection” removed** and put in definitions

### Regulation 23: Safeguarding edges of excavations and Lagoons

- 23(a) **New**
  - “the overburden at or near the top of a face or a side of the quarry is cleared back to a sufficient distance and depth so as not to endanger any persons at work”

### Regulation 24: Vehicle and Traffic Rules - **Slight amendment**

- “The operator shall ensure, in so far as is reasonably practicable, that suitable vehicle and traffic rules are prepared and, **where necessary reviewed and updated** for the purpose of preventing the risks to persons arising from the use of vehicles at the quarry, including where machines or vehicles enter or leave the quarry”.

### **Regulation 28:** Protection from falling objects

- (3) (b) **removed**
  - “the helmet or other head protection is not issued to any other person unless and until it has been cleaned and disinfected

**Regulation 29:** Prevention of Drowning **same except it now identifies an approved form AFQ3**

## **Part 4 Safety Provisions for Ancillary Activities & Installations**

# Regulation 40: Windows & Skylights

## Regulation 40(a)(i) **Rewording**

- “The operator shall, in respect of a place of work, ensure that (a)windows, skylights and ventilation devices -
  - (i) are designed so that they can be opened, adjusted or secured in a safe manner”

## Regulation 40(c) **new in relation to fragile roofs**

- “access to roofs made of fragile material shall not be permitted unless equipment is provided to ensure that work can be carried out in a safe manner”

# Part 5 Explosives

# Regulation 45: Appointment of explosives supervisors, shotfirers, drillers and storekeepers

## Regulation 45 (1)(d) – “and transport” removed

- “appoint, where necessary, one or more than one competent person as storekeeper to ensure the safe storage of explosives at the quarry”

## Regulation 45 (1)(e) - new

- “appoint a competent person to carry out drilling of shotholes”

## Regulation 45 (1)(f) - changed from 3 to 6 years

- “ensure that a record of the appointment at the quarry of a competent person under subparagraphs (a), (c), (d) or (e) respectively is kept at the quarry or some other suitable place for the period of his or her appointment and for **6 years** following the termination of his or her appointment”

# Regulation 46 Storage, transport, use and disposal of explosives and ANBI

## Regulation 46(b) – additions

- “operations involving the **on-site mixing**, storage, transport, use or disposal of explosives **and ANBI** are carried out by or under the close personal supervision of **the explosives supervisor** appointed under Regulation 45(1)(a)”

## Regulation 46(f) – persons named

- “explosives **and ANBI** are kept at all times in a locked explosives store or under the close personal supervision of **the explosives supervisor** appointed under Regulation 45(1)(a)”.

# Regulation 47 Shotfiring Rules

## Regulation 47(1) - Rewording

- “In respect of a quarry where explosives are in use, the operator shall ensure that rules (in this Regulation referred to as the “shotfiring rules”) are prepared **and available at the commencement of quarrying operations**”. (Removed “complied with”)

## Regulation 47(2) - additions

- The shotfiring rules shall provide for the following:
  - (b) the appointment of **drillers**, explosives supervisors, shotfirers, trainee shotfirers and storekeepers;
  - (c) the authorisation of other persons who will be involved with **the on-site mixing**, storage, transport, use or disposal of explosives;
  - (e) procedures for the disposal of surplus explosives, **ANBI**, detonators, accessories and packaging.

# Regulation 48 Blast Specification

## Regulation 48(a) – reworded

- The operator shall ensure that –
  - (a) an adequate written blast specification is prepared by the explosives supervisor –
    - (i) that includes the identification of the danger zone for each shotfiring operation at the quarry, based on an assessment of the risks, and
    - (ii) so that where shotfiring operations identified by the explosives supervisor as being necessary occur, **persons will not, in so far as is reasonably practicable, be placed at undue risk,**

## Regulation 48 (c ) – new

- “the blast specification is adhered to with regard to the azimuth, inclination, depth, and spacing of any shotholes drilled”

## Regulation 50: Duties of explosives supervisor and shotfirer

**Regulation 50(3)(a) new** –Any changes to specification brought to attention Explosive Supervisor.

- “ensure that any variations to the blast specification have been brought to the attention of and agreed with the explosives supervisor”

## Regulation 51 Misfires

- **Regulation 50(a)(i) of 2008 Regulations removed** where shot was fired by means of **safety fuse**.

## Regulation 52 Records of Explosives and ANBI – New

- “The operator shall ensure that procedures are in place for the recording of and accounting for –
  - (a) all explosives used or disposed of at the quarry in accordance with the provisions of the European Communities (System for the Identification and Traceability of Explosives for Civil Uses) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 133 of 2009), and
  - (b) all ANBI used or disposed of at the quarry.
- (2) The operator shall comply with Regulation 19 and any requirements of An Garda Síochána regarding the procedures referred to in paragraph (1).
- (3) The operator shall ensure that when requested by a Government inspector or a member of An Garda Síochána the records referred to paragraph (1) are made available.
- (4) In this Regulation, “Government inspector” means a person appointed under [section 53](#) of the [Act of 1875](#) as a Government inspector.”

# Regulation 53 Prohibited Activities

- Reference to **safety fuse and lighting cord removed**
- Renumbered

## Part 6 Excavations, Trenches & Lagoons

## Regulations 54-56

- **No major changes** in this section - slight re-wording from 2008 Regulations

## Regulation 57 Geotechnical Assessment

- (2) (g) changed from **10 years to 6 years**

## Part 7 General Health Hazards

- Air Receivers in Part 7 of the S,H & W (Quarries) Regulations 2008 is **removed** as are part of the S,H & W (General Application) Regulations 2007
- Part 7 in new Regulations are now General Health Hazards and there are **no changes**

# Part 8 Welfare



- **Regulation 63** Shelters and Accommodation for clothing and meals.
- 63 (1)(e) Non- alcoholic beverage removed

**Regulation 66** heading changed from Sanitary Conveniences to Toilet Facilities

- - aligned with Reg 20 of SHWW(General Applications) Regulations 2007

**Regulation 68** Pregnant women and nursing mothers

- - now makes provision for postnatal and breastfeeding employees to lie down to rest – aligned with Reg 24 of SHWW(General Applications) Regulations 2007

**Regulation 70** Rest Rooms

- where necessary – one or more than 1 rest room

# Schedules

## Schedule 1: QSCS **No Change**

## Schedule 2: **Approved Forms**

- AFQ1: Appointment of Operator/Common and Notification to HSA
- AFQ2: Notification of Permanent or Temporary Cessation
- AFQ3: Results of Inspection and Thorough Examination of Personal Flotation Devices

## Schedule 3: Machinery subject to Regulation 24(2)(e)

- **Back Hoe Loader changed to 180 excavator**

## Schedule 4: Geotechnical Assessments – **no change**

# Issues that arose during public consultation

- Requirement for competent driller in new Regulations.
- Proposal that exemption of construction site to extend to borrow pit
- Guidance to be provided

# Next Steps

- 3-month lead in period from September 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.
- FAQ's being prepared for HSA website
- Current Safe Quarry Guidelines being updated
- Queries to
  - Email: [contactus@hsa.ie](mailto:contactus@hsa.ie)
  - Ph: 0818 289389 9am-3pm Mon – Friday.



# HSA

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