

RoSPA NOSHC, 26 June 2015 – Summary Report: Mineral Products Association (MPA)

1. The No.1 occupational health issue for the quarrying and mineral products industry in the UK is **Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS)**. The unified emphasis of this & multiple related industries across Europe is the *prevention of silicosis*. We consider this to be a much superior goal to any pre-occupation with compensation. A large confederation of European industries is currently lobbying hard in Brussels and elsewhere for a proportionate outcome to the future EU “silica” legislative debate. The key ‘selling point’ of the unique multi-sectoral bi-partite EU “Silica” Social Dialogue Agreement (“NePSi Agreement”) is that the biennial Reporting provides inbuilt *incentives* to all European signatory industries to improve continuously. It would be of very significant assistance if the HSE is able to extend its traditional pragmatic approach by lending governmental support to British industry on this vital issue.
2. **Leadership & Engagement** is a major topic for the MPA. To make H&S simple for leaders, the focus is on learning from the habits & behaviours of effective leaders, e.g. belief in Zero Harm as a value rather than merely an aspiration. Factors under scrutiny include:
 - What ‘good’ looks like
 - Consequences of failure (for families, not just the IP)
 - Mentoring/sharing
 - Identifying gaps in competence
 - Joint visible-felt-leadership actions

HSE has a permanent seat on the MPA H&S Committee and has multiple opportunities to address AGMs and MPA Council, the latter meetings are regularly attended by 40 or more industry leaders. MPA would welcome greater challenge of its leaders by the HSE.

3. MPA statistics indicate that **Contractors’ health & safety** continues to be of disproportionate concern, thus major efforts are continuing to improve this aspect of the industry’s performance. Statistical analysis of indirect employed (and often occasional) workers is not straightforward. MPA’s view is that Hauliers should be considered separately to Contractors. Haulier stats could be based on Incidents per tonne hauled (or per kilometre), whereas for Contractors the divisor is ‘hours worked’ though this imposes a heavy (unwelcome for some) admin burden on operators, thus Contractor stats are less precise than those for directly employed. Contractor engagement is a major focus using tools such as the PICS scheme registration and MPQC/SPA Passports, but in ways that take into account the Contractors’ viewpoints and align as far as possible with the wishes of key customer industries (e.g. Construction).
4. The long-running MPA **“Stay Safe” campaign** is run every year prior to the start of the school holidays and warmer weather. The aim of the campaign is to raise public awareness of the risks they may be exposing themselves to when trespassing in quarries or related industry sites. This year, the MPA is placing special emphasis on *water safety* and is working with RoSPA, the RLSS & RNLI. The campaign reinforces the community work already being undertaken by members. In particular, MPA requests the help of parents and teachers in helping to get these messages across to young people. The main message is that unless you are invited on an organised visit by the quarry operator - Stay Safe...Stay Out of Quarries. On 25 June 2015, Martin Isles was interviewed by BBC East Midlands and ITV Central, plus various radio station interviews, at a disused quarry in Derbyshire where EA-approved food dye had been added to the water body to discourage swimmers who trespass into quarries. ‘Cold water shock’ is an issue that is poorly understood by the public and especially by younger people. The campaign Facebook page – Stay Safe Stay Out of Quarries - has links to videos and news stories and will be updated throughout the campaign:
<https://www.facebook.com/StaySafeStayOutOfQuarries>