

QNJAC Guidance

Essential Health & Safety Guidance for Quarries



Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee (QNJAC)

Information sheet in support of:

Quarry Operator and Contractor Code of Conduct

Welfare Facilities for Contractors

(Version 1: May 2016, review 2021)



This information sheet has been developed by the Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee (QNJAC) to help quarry operators, contractors, managers and others make health and safety improvements in the quarry industry. This guidance may go further than the minimum you need to do to comply with the law.

QNJAC Contractors Working Group
Guidance in support of the Quarry Operator/Contractor Code of Practice

WELFARE

The Contractors Code of Practice states:

Welfare

Sites should provide access to clean, adequate welfare facilities for contractors whilst on site with a focus on establishing a consistent standard.

Guidance:

If we are to build true partnerships in the quarry operator/contractor relationship we must start treating contractors in exactly the same way as direct employees.

Increasingly, quarry operations are contracting out day to day tasks such as drilling and blasting, load and haul, etc. These contractors are on site all day every day and are part of the permanent workforce.

Equally, the industry often contracts out specialist services such as the more complex maintenance tasks, or refurbishment projects. These contractors might be on site for short periods of time to several weeks.

The standards of welfare facilities available should not depend on how long contractors are going to be on site.

It makes good sense to discuss any special welfare requirements with the contractor before the job begins. For example contractors carrying out maintenance in the dust extraction bag filter are going to get very dirty. The quarry operator has created the hazard; it is up to them to ensure that the contractors can deal with it in an appropriate manner. The site showers might be adequate but there may be a need to provide facilities for bagging up contaminated workwear. There may even be a need for specialist mobile welfare facilities.

What is of vital importance is that contractors are able to leave site clean, warm and comfortable having had access to adequate, clean and well maintained facilities.

For a partnership to work it has to be a two way relationship, respect is the key word for both parties. For the use of welfare facilities this means that the contractor should leave the facilities in at least the same condition as they found them and report any concerns. It is unacceptable to leave welfare facilities dirty or damaged.