

HSE STATEMENT ON GEOTECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS

“HSE Quarry Inspectors will take a pragmatic view about with regard to timescales for Geotechnical Assessments in the current circumstances.

For any significant overrun or where a significant change has occurred, the operator should take all ‘reasonable steps’ as a form of interim measure. Above all, Quarry operators are still expected to operate a quarry in accordance with a design arising out of appraisal and carry out inspections etc as required.

Examples of some basic measures that Operators may take includes;

1. Record and justify decision for not undertaking assessment.
2. Carrying out inspections as per the regime and regularly re-appraising the structure to check if any change has occurred from the design or a change in geology/ geotechnical feature etc. If not, then the structure likely remains in a stable & safe condition.
3. If a change has occurred then the operator should make contact with/send photo, videos to the Geotechnical Specialist for further advice. If in doubt about the safety and stability of a structure, stop work in that area of the quarry and evacuate personnel to a safe distance. In the event that the changes has impacted on, or is likely to impact upon, infrastructure or land outside the site then other physical steps may need to be taken to mitigate the failure and/ or remediate to protect members of the public.”