

BEST PRACTICE

LOCATION:	Concrete products plant	ARTICLE YEAR	2018
ACTIVITY:	Maintenance & Housekeeping	COMPANY:	Aggregate Industries UK
SUB ACTIVITY:	N/A	COMPANY LOCATION:	Barton Under Needwood
BEST PRACTICE No:	BP2016	COMPANY TEL:	0000
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:			

TITLE



Thinking outside the confined space

ARTICLE

DESCRIPTION

The semi-dry concrete batching process used in the manufacture of Aggregate Industries' concrete products required an in-depth, daily clean-down.

The cleaning process was an unpleasant task. It required an operative to enter into the confined space of a mixer drum, use pneumatic vibration and hand tools to break-off the cured concrete residue for the internal mixer workings. The hour long process was essential to return the mixer to a condition which enabled it to efficiently produce concrete to the desired specification.

The task was physically demanding, involved the operator working in cramped, hot and dusty conditions whilst wearing appropriate PPE. The operative was exposed to risks associated with respirable silica, HAVS, machinery entrapment, confined space working and COSHH exposure.

The problems have been resolved using a counter balanced and ergonomically designed, ultra-high pressure, pneumatic wash- down system. The system can operate at up to 55,000 PSI of air flow. The jet of air and vapour is powerful enough to remove the cured concrete from the internal mixer drum. The system allows the cleaning operative, who is positioned outside the drum, to hold and manoeuvre the lance easily, enabling him to remove all the internal debris.

The system can feed four litres of atomised water a minute through the high pressure lance. The operation produces a minimal amount of slurry that is easily disposed of without additional plant and equipment.

BENEFITS

- Eliminates the need to work in a confined space
- Reduces operator exposure to HAVS
- Reduces operator exposure to respirable crystalline silica
- Improved productivity – 20% reduction in cleaning time
- A safer and cleaner working environment for all
- Easily transferable application

ARTICLE IMAGES

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