



21154 Quality inspections – wagon isolation

Aggregate Industries > Bardon Hill Laboratory 1 2



Technician uses button to authorise driver to go

DESCRIPTION

Aggregate Industries Bardon Hill quarry produces over a million tonnes of asphalt per day. Between 50 to 60 trucks leave the site each day, the temperature of the asphalt load is checked by a technician using a heat probe. Prior to taking the heat measurement, the technician made contact with the driver positioned by the gantry and either asked him for his keys or indicated that he needed permission from the technician before moving on. There had been a number of incidents where the driver had moved on without permission exposing the technician to potential injury.

Following a risk assessment of the activity, it was decided to put in place a safe system of work for temperature measurement and sampling of asphalt and/or aggregates from delivery vehicles. A system was required that would ensure the person undertaking the inspection was in control, effectively isolating the delivery vehicle, prior to inspection. A team was set up to explore the most effective way to achieve this.

The solution required drivers to place their keys into an external box which then automatically locked. The technician could then safely complete the inspection knowing the vehicle could not move. Following completion, the technician would press a button, unlocking the box so that driver could recover his keys and be given a signal that it was safe to move away from the inspection gantry.

BENEFITS

- Full control of the wagon given to the individual undertaking the testing
- Fully visible isolation system
- Eliminated risk of injury or damage due to uncontrolled movement during testing
- Improved understanding of isolation process within Aggregate Industries
- Consultation process enhanced safety culture
- A simple and cost effective system to install.

TRANSFERSABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

- This system is now installed throughout the Midlands and other sites throughout AI
- This task is completed on a daily basis throughout the UK both at Aggregate Industries and other sector suppliers, this system can easily be adopted at other sites across the industry.



Testing the asphalt



Drivers place keys in box



Driver collects keys when authorised to go