

# BEST PRACTICE

**LOCATION:** **ARTICLE YEAR:** 2010  
**ACTIVITY:** Production and Processing **COMPANY:** Aggregate Industries  
**SUB ACTIVITY:** Asphalt & coated stone **COMPANY LOCATION:** Bardon Asphalt (Midlands)  
**BEST PRACTICE No:** BP696 **COMPANY TEL:** 07802 276158

**TITLE**  Award Winner  On Video

## Bitumen handling and storage - behavioural improvements

### ARTICLE

#### DESCRIPTION

Aggregate Industries set a target of zero incidents involving bitumen handling. To help achieve this, a bitumen working group (BWG) involving personnel from the asphalt business, HSEQ, engineering, training and personnel was formed.

The group identified that:

1. There was an inconsistent approach to the calculation of bitumen storage capacity. These inconsistencies included the calculation of a tank™s theoretical design capacity, safe working capacity, usable capacity (ullage), and whether the calculation was made using weight or volume

2. The periodic ,Authority to Discharge™ (ADT) reports from the bitumen suppliers were highlighting unacceptable level of incidents involving alarm activations

3. Bitumen related incidents were leading to employee injuries.

The group also recognised that changing the behaviour of employees involved in asphalt production would be key to achieving the goal of zero incidents.

The following initiatives involving both management and operatives were put in place:

#### Bitumen Discharge Permit

A Bitumen Discharge Permit (BDP) was formulated and trialled at a number of asphalt plants. The Refined Bitumen Association (RBA) was consulted since it was considered important to have co-operation from both the bitumen suppliers™ delivery drivers and contract transport drivers.

Completion of the BDP ensures that plant operatives overseeing the discharge process are:

Physically establishing and recording current tank content

Recording tank and flange numbers to avoid confusion

Checking tank gauge and alarm functionality

### ARTICLE IMAGES

