Quarry Face Contractor Competence

WHAT HAPPENED

During a health & safety audit, the Senior Health & Safety Advisor involved two contract employees in a Safety Conversation relating to competency.

Both operators held appropriate mobile plant licences for a front end loader and 360° excavator and were able to competently demonstrate pre-start safety checks and plant operation. However, both individuals were working at the quarry face loading “as blasted” rock into a mobile crusher unit without having completed a quarry safety passport and they had not received geotechnical training.

The excavator operator did have a rock pedestal assessment but he was not fully aware of its application.



An Example Image

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

This near miss highlights the need to look further than competency cards when assessing operator competence. The hazards faced at site must always be considered and it must be ensured that operators have the necessary information, instruction, training and supervision.

Both operators have been suspended from this activity pending the provision of appropriate training.



An Example Image

LOCATION:	**QUARRY**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**21/10/2011**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**AGGREGATE PROCESSING**	**INCIDENT No:**	**00313**