GOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES IN THE EUROPEAN AGGREGATES INDUSTRY

UEPG Health and Safety Committee

César Luaces Frades
• 21 countries
• 13,500 companies
• 28,500 extraction sites
• 350,000 workers
• 3,000 Mt of Aggregates/year
UEPG – Health and Safety Committee

- 29 Members
- Supported by technical experts
- Chair: Rafael F. Aller (FdA – Spain)
- Vice-chair: Martin Isles (QPA – U.K.)
- Secretary: César Luaces Frades (FdA – Spain)
Zero accidents objective

- To **identify health and safety situation and problems** for the European Aggregates Industry
- To promote **H&S integration** within aggregates companies
- To promote **H&S good practices** across the aggregates industry
- To establish improvement **H&S targets** regarding specific issues:
  - exploitations and treatment plants design,
  - workers participation,
  - subcontractors,
  - others
Zero accidents objective

• To identify key health and safety themes for the European Aggregates Industry (e.g. silica sand, vibrations, dangerous substances)
• To promote the industry’s health and safety performance more effectively through UEPG website and a strong network
• To establish a workable SDI reporting scheme adapted to the sector, including H&S statistical accident data (official or estimations from Member Associations)
GOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES IN THE EUROPEAN AGGREGATES INDUSTRY
H&S Good practice concept

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

- Implemented solutions in aggregates companies to prevent the exposure of workers to risks during quarrying activities, beyond the legal requirements.
- All examples should show good management, particularly the effective use of risk assessment and implementation of its findings, and be focused on the successful prevention of risks to workers.
  - That can be taken at enterprise level to improve working/living conditions
  - Risks tackled at source through good management
  - Successful implementation in the workplace
  - Real improvements
  - Sustainability across time
  - Good consultation between management and the workforce
  - Possibility of transfer to other aggregates companies and preferably to SMEs
  - ‘Freshness’ of information provided.
Examples of good practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL ASPECTS OF RISK PREVENTION</th>
<th>TRAINING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PARTICIPATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HUMAN FACTORS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OTHER ASPECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXТRACTION SITE</td>
<td>CONTROL CABINS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HOPPERS, CRUSHERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WORK CONDITIONS</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>VISITORS</td>
</tr>
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<td>AUXILIARY OPERATIONS</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Procedure/Involvement**

- A survey has been sent to UEPG Member Associations (10 October 2005)
- Each UEPG Member asked its member companies for examples. Member companies aggregate gave examples of Good Practices in H&S, according to:
  - A short questionnaire, **in English**.
  - Two pictures in digital format (jpeg or tiff file).
- A small H&S Good Practice Task Group (<6 persons), that has been nominated by the UEPG H&S Committee selected examples and drafted the document.
- The draft was circulated to all UEPG Members for comments.
- The final document (English version) was approved by the UEPG Health and Safety Committee.
- Final document: 7 March 2007
# Example of the questionnaire

**UEPG Health and Safety Committee**  
Proposal for a Guide  
**“UEPG H&S Good Practices in the Aggregates Industry”**

**Country:** Spain  
**Company:** ARIDOS CUTILLAS, S.A.  
**Contact:** GABRIEL MORENO HIDALGO  
**Telephone number:** 0034915021417  
**Name of the site / Processing Plant:** Rock Quarry  
**Address of the site / Processing Plant:** 23, Rock Street, 45646 Fortuna, Murcia  
**Total number of workers of the company (Direct):** 18

**Good Practice**  
(Please, tick the appropriate box)

- [X] Quarry  
- [ ] Sand and gravel pit  
- [ ] Processing plant  
- [ ] Other

**Extraction Site**  
**Mobile Machinery**  
**Processing Plant**  
**Auxiliary Operations**  
**General Aspects**  
**Innovation**  
**Human Factors**  
**Working Conditions**  
**Advantages observed**

A hydraulic hammer is used to break any big stone in the primary crusher, avoiding the risk of obstruction. This safe practice prevents other dangerous operations related with the accidental blockage of the primary crusher, like the use of pneumatic hammers or bars to clear this equipment.

**Please send one two pictures related to the good practice, in a digital format (JPEG or TIFF file).**

The risks of falling into the crusher and blows are avoided and the number of hours that the plant is stopped due to this problem is reduced.
Final document

- Nº of examples: 206
- Nº of contributing countries: 16
- Nº of companies: 86
- Nº of pages: 108
- Size: A4
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Places for the logo of a National Association (National versions)
The CDROM

Places for the logo of a National Association (National versions)

GOOD HEALTH & SAFETY PRACTICES
IN THE EUROPEAN AGGREGATES INDUSTRY
UEPG
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

UEPG
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
### GOOD HEALTH & SAFETY PRACTICES IN THE EUROPEAN AGGREGATES INDUSTRY

#### TROLLEY FOR THE OXYACETYLENE WELDING GAS CYLINDERS TRANSPORT

*Holcm, Italy*

This is a trolley for transport of oxyacetylene welding gas cylinders.

**Advantages**
- The support base has been conceived to facilitate the frontal bottle loading and safe accommodation during the transport.

#### GAS BOTTLE TRANSPORTERS

*Hansen Aggregates*

The lifting department at this quarry designed and fabricated a transporter that makes handling heavy gas bottles in a safe process. A trailer with a dolly at the rear lifts the bottles from ground level to a base plate that can be fixed in position. The design incorporates a belt to prevent the gas cylinders from being damaged during manipulation. A hoist system on a lifting platform and pivoting backrests to keep the worker nearly seated.

**Advantages**
- A specially designed transporter reduces the manual handling of gas bottles and thus the risk of injury.

#### HANDLERS

*LaRenga, Andalucía, Spain*

In order to avoid as much as possible the risks arising from working at height and the manual handling of loads, the company has decided to provide each of its facilities with a handling unit.

The highly maneuverable equipment can be fitted with a variety of accessories such as platforms, lifting hooks, lifting chains, mobile stands, mobile seats, etc., which are designed to move loads, lift loads, and perform the tasks of carriages, small lifts, etc.

**Advantages**
- In order to ensure a most rapid improvement in safety and the efficiency of maintenance operations (including maintenance of daily, monthly, seasonal tasks, etc.), the company has changed the number of hours that the facilities are shut down.

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### WORK PLATFORM ENSURES SAFE REPAIR WORK ON THE LIFTING FRAME OF THE WHEEL LOADER

*Brandenburg, Germany*

Repair work had to be carried out on the lifting frame of the mechanical type wheel loader. To ensure the stability of personnel during installation work, in particular if the frame was previously closed.

To eliminate the danger of accidents, a work platform has been constructed which can be mounted onto the wheel loader’s lifting frame, and which can be attached to the right and left sides of the wheel loader at a height of approximately 2.5 m.

**Advantages**
- Maintenance work on the lifting frame of the wheel frame can be carried out safely and easily using this work platform.

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### DUST SUPPRESSION SYSTEM

A racers cleaning machine for the accumulated dust has been prepared for the screen.

**Advantages**
- A machine is ready to be used before the change of survey, cleaning, and maintenance of the screen has been achieved.

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### REMINDER SIGNALS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF COVERS

**Signals**
- Place the covers on the mobile or handcart components of the installation, such as transmission bolts, shafts, and hydraulic hoses, in accordance with the regulations and practices of the company.
- Place the covers on the installation, taking into account the need to maintain the covers following maintenance or repairs.
- A reminder on the handling of electrical components or devices.

**Advantages**
- The bad habit of not replacing guards immediately after maintenance has been reduced.
- There have been no accidents since 2004 due to mishandling of electrical components or devices.
SAFETY INDUCTION BOARD GAME

A 30-minute video that uses a fun concept to communicate a serious safety message has greatly improved the company’s induction process. The video, which is shown to all new and current employees and contractors, involves a computer-generated character which works its way around a board game. Each square on the board has a different health and safety topic, such as emergency procedures and incident reporting. When the character lands on a risk square, video users are asked a number of questions to test their knowledge of the issues.

The video effectively promotes company policy and provides basic health and safety information generic to all sites. Throughout the video, reference is made to the company’s commitment to the Health & Safety Executive’s Hard Target initiative for accident reduction and to the Health & Safety Executive’s Hot Topics. The company’s new systems for control of contractors, permits to work and machinery isolation are also covered.

Advantages Observed

- The video is part of a wider induction programme, prompting discussion and a deeper exploration of site-specific safety issues.
Preface

Pedro Ortun Silván
Director DG Enterprise & Industry
European Commission

PREFACE

I welcome this valuable initiative of UEPG, the European Aggregates Association to increase knowledge about risk and accident prevention.

The exchange of experience of good practice amongst UEPG's 2.800 sites, which provide jobs for a quarter of a million employees across the European Union, will be a valuable business contribution to promoting corporate social responsibility.

 Initiatives like these can be a particularly valuable tool for small and medium-sized companies which do not have the resources of larger companies but seek to develop health and safety strategies relevant and appropriate to their needs.

I wish UEPG all success in promoting good practice across Europe through these case studies.
INTRODUCTION

The UEPG Health and Safety Committee has taken the initiative of producing this Good Practice Guide to reinforce mutual and external commitment and to provide a useful tool to promote the health and safety performance of the European Aggregate Industry.

The guide is a compilation of measures that are successfully practised by member companies.

The examples, described by the companies, were developed to resolve specific problems in one or more of their operations. Their possible application to other companies in the sector will depend on the particular circumstances.

In the context of the Council Decision of 12 June 1997 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the occupational health and safety of workers at work, the term ‘good practice’ implies compliance with the obligations in the legal provisions on the prevention of occupational and meeting health situations which make it possible to improve safety.

This guide contains low-cost but nonetheless effective measures as well as involving larger investment which may require a medium to long-term approach.

A key goal in the promotion of best practices as described here, has made it possible to improve the production process, increasing workers' commitment to a company, while also increasing employee safety as part of their daily working life.

The UEPG Health and Safety Committee has reviewed and selected the information to assess whether examples fit the good practice concept.

The guide will help UEPG to achieve the following strategic objectives:

- To increase occupational development, setting the foundations for satisfactory with the accident rate;
- To identify Good Practice in H&S that can help improve aggregate companies;
- To disseminate effectively UEPG H&S reports to the policy makers and legislators and become an authoritative source of information on the European Aggregate Industry;
- To exchange knowledge and experience from the different member countries;
- To form UEPG to develop and improve aggregate companies in a clear and continuous way.

As Chairman of the UEPG Health and Safety Committee I would like to thank all the companies for their health and safety commitment and collaboration. This is the best way to prove that the aggregate industry is one of the important of the social aspects of sustainable development implementation.
GOOD HEALTH & SAFETY PRACTICES IN THE EUROPEAN AGGREGATES INDUSTRY

UEPG HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

The overall aim of UEPG’s Health and Safety engagement is to develop policies aimed at achieving a zero accident objective and safe and healthy working conditions in the European aggregates industry.

UEPG regards risk prevention at work as an essential aspect of aggregate production in Europe, already integrated in the EU Sustainable Development policy.

In particular, UEPG has identified the following high priority issues:

1. To convey European aggregate producers the need to integrate the prevention culture in companies and sites.
2. To effectively disseminate aggregate sector’s health and safety expertise to policy makers and legislators and become an authoritative source of information on behalf of the aggregates industry.
3. To participate in and promote projects for the improvement of risk prevention at work issues.
4. To exchange knowledge and expertise in addition to legislations and documents.
5. To promote health and safety through participation in the courses organized by the administration and other institutions.
6. To develop a coherent overall prevention policy for the aggregates industry which cover technology, organization of work and working conditions.
7. To encourage engineering and management improvements in safety conditions in extraction and processing plants.
8. To upgrade information, dialogue and balanced participation on health and safety at work between employers and employees.
9. To promote safety training for workers exposed to the particular conditions of each extraction site and to promote the use of appropriate instructions.
10. To promote awareness, exchange of information and improvement in occupational health.
11. To promote a common basis for the collection and processing of statistical information to characterize the industry’s safety performance.
12. To develop methods of statistical comparison in occupational health.
HEALTH AND SAFETY GOOD PRACTICE CONCEPT

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work recommends that good practice examples are developed in aggregates companies to prevent the exposure of workers to risks during quarrying activities, beyond the legal requirements.

All examples show good management, particularly the effective use of risk assessment and implementation of its findings, and are focused on the successful prevention of risks to workers.

A Good Practice should:

- reflect the same concept to meet the requirements of the appropriate legal framework, including European directives, national laws, regulations, guidelines and approved standards.
- demonstrate steps and methods that can be taken at company level to improve working or living conditions, or demonstrate steps and methods that can be taken within an organisation to improve working or living conditions and reduce health and safety risks in other companies.
- be effective and ethically tolerable.

- recommend an action that can be identified and verified as the causal factor in the risk reduction.

The main characteristics of the selected Good Practices are:

- workplace focused;
- risks tackled at source through good management, particularly the effectiveness of risk assessment and implementation of its findings;
- successful implementation in the workplace;
- good improvements;
- sustainability across time, particularly actions that continue to impact during all the site life;
- good communication between management and the workforce;
- compliance with relevant legislative requirements, usually going beyond minimum requirements;
- possibility of transfer to other aggregates companies and preferably to SMEs.

The study cases of Good Practice cases:

- the elimination of risks before work begins on site, for example through:
  - good procurement practices of equipment and materials;
  - effective tendering processes;
  - successful planning and design actions;

- the effective management of health and safety on site, for example through:
  - early and constructive risk assessment;
  - implementation of risk control, scheduling or monitoring.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL ASPECTS OF RISK PREVENTION</th>
<th>EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRAINING</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMAN FACTORS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER ASPECTS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTRICATION SITE</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTROL CABINS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOPPERS, CRUSHERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONVEYOR BELTS</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSIT ZONES</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROTECTIONS AND SAFEGUARDS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORK CONDITIONS</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREATMENT PLANT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOBILE EQUIPMENT</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTERNAL TRANSPORT</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLING</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISITORS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUXILIARY OPERATIONS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                           |                           |
|                           | 52                        |
|                           | 10                        |
|                           | 71                        |
|                           | 51                        |
The UEPG Health and Safety Committee want to thank the companies below for their contributions that have made this guide possible.

### Austria
- Cemex - Austria
  - Examples number: 162,173

### Belgium
- Antwerp Stone Terminal - Subsidiary of Eurovia: 87
- Gralex: 18

### Czech Republic
- Kamen a písek spol. s r.o.: 112
### UEPG Members

<table>
<thead>
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**Note:** The table above lists UEPG members as of the date the document was printed. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the respective websites listed.
## UEPC Health and Safety Committee

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<thead>
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<th>Country</th>
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<td>Rafał Fernández Aller</td>
<td>UEPA, Spain</td>
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<td>Martin Hervey</td>
<td>UEPA, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Frank Aston</td>
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<td>Piusa, Samuel</td>
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GOOD HEALTH & SAFETY PRACTICES IN THE EUROPEAN AGGREGATES INDUSTRY

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Design and layout:
Conclusions (1)

- **Achieved targets:**
  - *To contribute to sustainable development,* laying the foundations for a safe industry with a “zero accidents” goal.
  - *To identify Good Practices in H&S* that are applied in European aggregates companies.
  - *To disseminate effectively UEPG’s H&S expertise to EU policy-makers* and legislators and become an authoritative source of information on the European Aggregates Industry.
  - *To exchange knowledge and expertise,* from the different member countries.
  - *To inform UEPG Members and European aggregates companies* in a brief and concise way.
Conclusions (2)

- UEPG proves its Health and Safety commitment.
- An UEPG common project with strong collaboration within UEPG member Associations.
- We can produce good and useful guides/tools for our member companies.
Thank you very much