
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1956 No. 1780

MINES AND QUARRIES

The Quarries Order, 1956

Made - - - - - 7th November, 1956
Laid before Parliament 26th November, 1956
Coming into Operation 1st January, 1957

Whereas by subsection (1) of section one hundred and ninety of the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954(a) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), the Minister of Fuel and Power (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister") is empowered to re-enact amongst other things (to the extent to which they could by virtue of the Act be enacted in regulations made under section one hundred and forty-one thereof) provisions of any regulation having effect by virtue of section eighty-six of the Coal Mines Act, 1911(b), subject to such modifications (if any) as appear to him to be consequential on the passing of the Act or requisite for the purpose either of bringing those provisions into conformity with the Act or of expressly limiting their operation to quarries of the class to which their operation is limited immediately before the commencement of the Act :

And Whereas by subsection (2) of that section it is provided amongst other things that an order under subsection (1) shall set out in a schedule to the order the provisions thereby re-enacted and may direct that those provisions shall have effect as if they were regulations made under section one hundred and forty-one of the Act :

Now, therefore, the Minister in pursuance of the powers conferred upon him by section one hundred and ninety of the Act hereby orders as follows:—

1.—(1) The provisions set out in the schedule hereto, being provisions of the Quarries General Regulations, 1938(c), subject to such modifications as aforesaid, are hereby re-enacted and shall have effect as if they were regulations made under section one hundred and forty-one of the Act coming into operation at the commencement of the Act.

(2) The provisions set out in the schedule hereto may be cited as the Quarries (General) Regulations, 1956.

2. Any exemption or notice given for the purpose of a provision of the Quarries General Regulations, 1938, shall, if in force at the commencement of the Act and so far as it could have been given for the purposes of the Quarries (General) Regulations, 1956 (whether by that instrument or an instrument to the like effect), have effect as if it had been so given.

3. This order shall come into operation at the commencement of the Act and may be cited as the Quarries Order, 1956.

Dated this seventh day of November, nineteen hundred and fifty-six.

Aubrey Jones,

Minister of Fuel and Power.

(a) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 70. (b) 1 & 2 Geo. 5. c. 50.
(c) S.R. & O. 1938/632 (Rev. XV, p. 64: 1938 II, p. 2897).

SCHEDULE

THE QUARRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1956, HAVING EFFECT AS IF MADE UNDER SECTION ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE OF THE MINES AND QUARRIES ACT, 1954.

Arrangement of Regulations

PART I.	General provisions for safe working and access	Regs. 1 to 11
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PART I

General provisions for safe working and access

Provision of materials

1.—(1) It shall be the duty of the appropriate person to secure that a sufficient supply of suitable materials and appliances is at all times provided at the quarry and properly maintained for ensuring compliance with all requirements imposed by or under the Act and the safety of the quarry and of persons employed thereat.

(2) In these regulations “appropriate person” in relation to a quarry means—

(a) with regard to any matter the responsibility for which is imposed by the Act or regulations upon the owner or is for the time being duly reserved to the owner in accordance with section one hundred of the Act, the owner of the quarry;

(b) with regard to any other matter, the manager of the quarry or where there are two or more managers, the manager having jurisdiction over the relevant part of the quarry.

Inspections

2.—(1) At every quarry a competent person appointed for that purpose by the appropriate person shall—

(a) inspect daily every working place and every road used by persons employed at the quarry for the purposes of their work or of getting to or from their working places;

(b) inspect daily the top of the quarry and examine daily any face, side or overburden of the quarry which may cause danger at any such place or road; and

(c) inspect daily the external parts of all machinery and appliances forming part of the equipment of the quarry.

(2) A person who has made an inspection in pursuance of this regulation shall forthwith make and sign in a book provided for that purpose by the owner of the quarry a full and accurate report of the result of the inspection:

Provided that—

(a) the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a quarry at which not more than five persons are employed and at which mechanical power is not used unless there is for the time being in force a direction given by an inspector by notice served on the appropriate person that such reports are to be made in relation thereto;

(b) an inspector may by notice served on the appropriate person exempt any quarry from the application of this paragraph.

Provisions for securing safe methods of working

3.—(1) Without prejudice to the generality of the duty imposed by subsection (1) of section one hundred and eight of the Act on managers of quarries to secure that quarrying operations are so carried on as to avoid danger from falls, it shall be the duty of every manager of a quarry to secure that in every part of the quarry to which his jurisdiction extends the overburden at or near the top of a face or side of the quarry shall be cleared back to a sufficient distance and depth to avoid such a danger.

(2) If an inspector is satisfied, having regard to the position of the boundary of the quarry, the natural conditions thereat or other special circumstances thereof, that to require such clearance is unnecessary, he may by notice served on the manager or managers, as the case may be, of the quarry exempt the quarry, or such part thereof as may be specified in the notice, from that requirement.

Safe means of access

4.—(1) No ladder used as a means of access to or egress from any quarry shall be fixed in an overhanging position or at an angle to the horizontal exceeding seventy-five degrees.

(2) It shall be the duty of every manager of a quarry to secure in every part of the quarry to which his jurisdiction extends that every such ladder exceeding thirty feet in length and ordinarily in use has substantial platforms at intervals of not more than thirty feet with a strong holdfast at each platform and that each ladder giving access to a platform projects at least three feet above it.

Fencing

5. The top of any shaft, hopper or kiln at a quarry shall be kept securely fenced.

6. Any gantry or platform (other than a platform for the loading or unloading of vehicles or a temporary wheeling plank) shall be securely fenced on any open side if it would otherwise be dangerous to persons working on or passing along it, and any such gantry or platform shall be provided with a continuous skirting board on any open side which board shall, in the case of a gantry or platform forming a bridge, be not less than nine inches high, and in any other case shall be not less than six inches high.

Precautions by workmen

7. Every person engaged in working or loading minerals at a quarry shall make a careful examination of his working place at the beginning of each period of work, at appropriate times during the course of it, and in particular after any shot has been fired thereat or near-by. He shall remove any loose material which might be dangerous.

8. No person employed at a quarry shall throw down any material in any manner likely to cause danger to other persons.

9. No person shall travel by means of an aerial ropeway at a quarry, otherwise than under the authority in writing of a manager thereof.

10. No person employed at a quarry shall remain underneath anything suspended from any lifting appliance or aerial ropeway.

Explosives

11. No person shall use in any quarry any blasting material or device except in accordance with regulations applicable to that quarry.

PART II

Machinery

12.—(1) No person shall at any quarry clean any machinery which is in motion.

(2) No person shall at any quarry oil or grease any machinery which is in motion unless provision is made for the operation to be performed in safety.

(3) No person shall at any quarry put any belt on or off a pulley while any machinery of which it forms part is in motion under mechanical power otherwise than by means of a safety contrivance.

Lifting machines

13.—(1) At every quarry a competent person appointed for the purpose by the appropriate person shall thoroughly examine at intervals not exceeding fourteen months all parts and working gear whether fixed or moveable including the anchoring and fixing appliances of any crane, crab or winch used as a lifting machine.

(2) No crane, crab or winch (other than a new machine) which has been dismantled or out of regular use for a period exceeding two months shall be taken into use as a lifting machine at any quarry for the first time at that quarry unless immediately prior thereto all parts and working gear thereof, whether fixed or moveable, including the anchoring and fixing appliances have been thoroughly examined by a competent person appointed for that purpose by the appropriate person.

(3) Any person who has made an examination of a crane, crab or winch in pursuance of this regulation shall forthwith make and sign in a book provided for that purpose by the owner of the quarry a full and accurate report of the result of the examination:

Provided that—

(a) the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a quarry at which not more than five persons are employed and at which mechanical power is not used unless there is for the time being in force a direction given by an inspector by notice served on the owner of the quarry that such reports are to be made in relation thereto;

(b) an inspector may by notice served on the owner of any quarry exempt it from the application of this paragraph.

14. Every crane, crab or winch used as a lifting machine at a quarry shall be provided with an efficient catch or an efficient brake.

Steam boilers

15.—(1) Every steam boiler at a quarry shall be provided with—

(a) a steam gauge and a water gauge to show respectively the pressure of steam and the height of water in each boiler; and

(b) unless it is externally fired, a suitable fusible plug or an efficient low water alarm device.

(2) This regulation shall not apply to economisers or superheaters.

16.—(1) Every steam boiler at a quarry shall be provided with a suitable safety valve.

(2) No person shall alter the setting of any safety valve attached to any such steam boiler except with the authority of an official under whose direction he works.

17. Every water gauge attached to any steam boiler at a quarry shall be provided with a suitable covering or guard unless it is so constructed as to be as safe to persons employed at the quarry as it would be if so protected.

18.—(1) Every steam boiler at a quarry and all its fittings and attachments shall—

- (a) be cleaned out at intervals not exceeding seven months by a competent person appointed for that purpose by the appropriate person ; and
- (b) be examined thoroughly at intervals not exceeding fourteen months by a competent person so appointed.

(2) No steam boiler which has been in use at a quarry or elsewhere and which has received extensive repairs or been dismantled or been out of regular use for a period exceeding one month shall be taken into use at any quarry for the first time at that quarry unless immediately prior thereto it and all its fittings and attachments have been examined thoroughly by a competent person appointed for the purpose by the appropriate person.

19. A person who has made an examination of a steam boiler in pursuance of the last preceding regulation shall, within twenty-eight days of the completion of the examination, make and sign in, or make, sign and attach to, a book provided for that purpose by the owner of the quarry, a full and accurate report of the result of the examination which shall include the permissible working pressure of the boiler :

Provided that if the person appointed by the appropriate person to make the examination is a boiler inspection company or association the report shall be a report signed by the person making the examination, countersigned by the chief engineer or other officer of similar status of the company or association and delivered to the appropriate person for attachment to the said book within twenty-eight days of the completion of the examination.

20.—(1) No new steam boiler shall be taken into use at a quarry unless there has been obtained from the manufacturer thereof or some other competent person a certificate stating the nature of any tests to which the boiler and its fittings and attachments have been submitted and specifying the maximum permissible working pressure thereof and the boiler is so marked as to enable it to be identified as the boiler to which the certificate relates.

(2) Every such certificate shall be preserved until the expiration of three years after the date on which it was given.

Air receivers

21.—(1) Every air receiver at a quarry shall—

- (a) have marked upon it so as to be plainly visible the maximum safe working pressure and be fitted with an accurate pressure gauge ;
- (b) be fitted with a suitable safety valve so adjusted as to permit the air to escape as soon as the maximum safe working pressure is exceeded ; and
- (c) be fitted with a blow-off cock through which any fluid which may accumulate in the receiver may be blown off.

(2) For the purposes of the provisions of the foregoing paragraph relating to pressure gauges and safety valves any set of air receivers supplied with air through a single pipe to which the pressure gauge and safety valve are fitted may be treated as one receiver.

(3) The appropriate person shall make and ensure the carrying out of arrangements whereby any blow-off cock is opened at least once in every working day whilst an air receiver is under pressure.

22.—(1) Every air receiver at a quarry shall be thoroughly cleaned and examined at intervals not exceeding twenty-six months by a competent person appointed for the purpose by the appropriate person. If any receiver of solid drawn construction is so made that the internal surface cannot be thoroughly examined a suitable hydraulic test of the receiver shall be carried out instead of internal examination.

(2) A person who has made an examination of an air receiver in pursuance of this regulation shall forthwith make and sign in, or make, sign and attach to, or make, sign and deliver to the appropriate person for attachment to, a book provided for that purpose by the owner of the quarry, a full and accurate report of the result of the examination.

(3) If a person who has made an examination of an air receiver of solid drawn construction specifies in his report that in his opinion further examination is unnecessary for a period so specified being a period exceeding twenty-six months but not exceeding four years, paragraph (1) hereof shall have effect as if it required examination before the expiration of the period so specified instead of twenty-six months.

PART III

Sidings

Application of Part III

23. This Part of these regulations shall apply in relation to any railway line at a quarry, being a line deemed, by virtue of subsection (3) or (5) of section one hundred and eighty of the Act, to form part of the quarry and being of a gauge not less than four feet eight and one half inches (in these regulations referred to as a "line"), and to the equipment and apparatus installed or provided for use in connection with such a line.

Points and signal wires

24. It shall be the duty of the appropriate person to ensure—

(a) that any points rod or signal wire installed for use in connection with a line at a quarry, being a points rod or signal wire so positioned as to be a source of danger to persons employed at that quarry, is sufficiently covered or otherwise guarded; and

(b) that every ground lever for the operation of points on any line at a quarry, being a line constructed after the twenty-ninth day of June, nineteen hundred and thirty-eight, is so installed that any person moving that lever is, when so doing, clear of any traffic on any adjacent line, and that that lever is—

(i) so installed that it can be moved only in directions as nearly as may be parallel to the track of rails nearest to that lever; or

(ii) of such a shape and so installed as to minimise obstruction to persons employed at the quarry.

Provision of equipment and safety devices

25. It shall be the duty of the appropriate person to ensure that there are provided in relation to every line—

(a) sufficient coupling poles or other suitable mechanical appliances for the purpose of coupling and uncoupling vehicles; and

(b) where requisite, sufficient pointed wooden sprags (each of a length not exceeding three feet) and sufficient scotches.

Operation of points

26.—(1) Every person who operates points on a line by holding them in position shall, before leaving those points, satisfy himself that they are in the proper position which they are intended to resume when not so held.

(2) Every person who moves a throw-over lever which operates points on a line shall, before leaving that lever, satisfy himself that it is in the proper position in which, having regard to the safe operation of any traffic on the lines concerned, it should be placed.

Movement of vehicles

27.—(1) The appropriate person shall take steps to secure that (except in the case of a vehicle being moved by a railway company) no vehicle is moved on a line otherwise than under the charge of a competent person appointed by the appropriate person for that purpose.

(2) No person shall move a vehicle, and no person in charge of a vehicle shall allow it to be moved, on a line by means of a prop or pole unless there is no other practicable method of moving the vehicle.

(3) No person shall couple or uncouple any vehicle in motion in circumstances in which it is practicable to use a coupling pole or other suitable mechanical appliance for that purpose except by means of such a pole or appliance.

(4) In every case in which any person employed at a quarry is or might be exposed to risk of injury by reason of the movement on a line of two or more other vehicles pushed by a locomotive, the person in charge of those other vehicles shall—

(a) accompany or precede the leading vehicle, watch the line ahead of it, and give any warning which may be requisite for the purpose of minimising that risk; or

(b) ensure that that vehicle is accompanied or preceded by a person charged by him with the duty of watching the line ahead of it and giving any warning which may be requisite for the purpose aforesaid; or

(c) make and secure the efficient carrying out of any other arrangements whereby that risk is minimised.

(5) In every case in which the movement of a vehicle on a line would be likely to endanger the safety of any person employed at the quarry, that movement shall not be made unless appropriate warning has been given to that person by the person in charge of that vehicle.

28. The appropriate person shall take steps to secure that no locomotive or train is, during any period between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise, or in a fog, moved on a line at a part of the quarry through which persons pass on foot to work, being a part at which there is not for the time being sufficient fixed artificial lighting, unless a suitable warning light is fixed to the leading end of that locomotive or train or that end is accompanied or preceded by a person carrying such a light.

29. Every driver in charge of a locomotive on a line, or a person preceding that locomotive on foot, shall, on approaching any level crossing ordinarily used by persons employed at the quarry to cross that line, any curve of the line round which it is not possible to see from the locomotive or any other place at which the safety of any person employed at the quarry is likely to be endangered by reason of the movement of the locomotive, give sufficient and timely warning of the approach of that locomotive, being a warning audible to persons for the time being at or near that level crossing, curve, or place (as the case may be).

30. No person shall move or attempt to move a vehicle on a line by pushing a buffer thereof.

31.—(1) No person shall ride on any buffer of a vehicle in motion on a line unless there is a secure hand-hold easily reached by any person riding on that buffer, and no person shall stand on that buffer unless there is also a secure foot-place thereon.

(2) No person shall be carried along by a vehicle on a line by riding on a pole, prop or other similar appliance.

Stationary vehicles

32. The appropriate person shall take steps to secure that in every case in which, for the purpose of affording passage across a line, a space is left between two vehicles stationary on one track of rails, that space is not less than fifteen feet in width.

33. It shall be the duty of the person in immediate charge of the carrying out to any vehicle on a line of any operation of repair to ensure that, in every case in which the safety of a person engaged in that operation might be endangered as a result of the movement of a vehicle, a danger signal is displayed at or near each end of the vehicle under repair or (if that vehicle for the time being forms part of a train of vehicles) of that train (as the case may be), being an end which might be struck or moved by another vehicle.

Restrictions on passage of persons on foot

34.—(1) No person shall pass immediately in front of any vehicle moving on a line under a loading point at a quarry, or between any vehicles so moving:

Provided that nothing in this paragraph shall apply to the person in charge of that vehicle or those vehicles (as the case may be).

(2) No person shall cross a line by passing underneath any vehicle thereon if by so doing his safety might be endangered by traffic.

Stacking of material beside lines

35. The appropriate person shall take steps to secure that in every case in which any material is placed at a distance less than three feet from the track of rails of a line and any person employed at the quarry is required in the course of his duty to pass on foot over that material or between it and the line, that material is so placed in such manner that—

(a) every such person can so pass without being exposed to risk of injury by traffic on that line; and

(b) if that material extends (whether continuously or not) for a distance exceeding sixty feet measured parallel with that line, there are provided at intervals not greater than sixty feet adequate spaces or recesses in that material.

Minimum age for locomotive drivers and shunters

36.—(1) No person who has not attained the age of eighteen years shall be employed at a quarry for the purpose of driving a locomotive on a line.

(2) No person who has not attained the age of sixteen years shall be employed in relation to a line as a shunter.

PART IV

Welfare

37. No young person who has not attained the age of sixteen years shall be employed at a quarry unless he has been examined by a medical practitioner who is an appointed factory doctor for the purposes of the Factories Acts, 1937(d) and 1948(e), in like manner as if the examination were an examination for the purposes of those Acts and he has been certified by that practitioner to be fit for that employment.

38.—(1) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of section ninety-one of the Act, it shall be the duty of the owner of every quarry to secure the provision and maintenance thereat in a place which is readily accessible of a first aid box or cupboard distinctively marked "First Aid" and containing a copy of any first aid leaflet approved for the purpose by the Minister but otherwise containing nothing except first aid requisites and appliances.

(2) Every such first aid box or cupboard shall contain—

(a) sterilized dressings of small and large sizes including non-medicated burn dressings;

(b) cotton wool or other material for padding;

(d) 1 Edw. 8 & 1 Geo. 6. c. 67.

(e) 11 & 12 Geo. 6. c. 55.

- (c) roller bandages ;
- (d) triangular bandages ; and
- (e) suitable antiseptic.

(3) It shall be the duty of the owner of every quarry to secure the provision and maintenance in such box or cupboard or in another suitable and accessible place of—

- (a) meat extract, coffee extract or other stimulant and a drinking vessel ;
- (b) eyedrops ;
- (c) suitable splints ; and
- (d) a tourniquet.

(4) In the case of a quarry at which not more than five persons are employed and at which mechanical power is not used, an inspector may by notice served on the owner exempt him from the obligation to provide any of the first aid requisites and appliances aforesaid specified in the notice.

(5) Every dressing provided in pursuance of this regulation and in respect of which a standard is specified in the British Pharmaceutical Codex shall comply in all respects with that standard.

39.—(1) There shall be provided and maintained at every quarry for the use of all persons employed thereat, suitable accommodation for changing and drying clothes and for the taking of meals.

(2) At every quarry at which more than thirty persons are employed the accommodation provided for the taking of meals shall be separate from that provided for changing and drying clothes, and shall include facilities for heating food and boiling water.

(3) If an inspector is of opinion with respect to any quarry that it would not be right to require compliance with any provision of this regulation he may by notice served on the owner exempt that quarry from compliance with that provision.

40. If an inspector is of opinion that sanitary conveniences or further sanitary conveniences ought to be provided at any quarry he may serve on the owner thereof a notice stating that he is of that opinion and requiring the provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences thereat before the expiration of such period as may be specified in the notice.

PART V

Miscellaneous provisions

Assignment of duties to competent persons

41. It shall be the duty of the owner and of every manager of a quarry to make and to ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure that every inspection, examination or other thing required by these regulations to be carried out or done by a competent person appointed by him is assigned to a competent person so appointed. A manager may in any case be appointed or appoint himself.

Interpretation

42.—(1) In these regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say—

“ the Act ” means the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954 ;

“ air receiver ” means—

(a) any vessel (other than a pipe or coil, or an accessory, fitting or part of a compressor) for containing compressed air and connected with an air compressing plant ; and

(b) any fixed vessel for containing compressed air or compressed exhaust gas and used for the purpose of starting an internal combustion engine ;

“ appropriate person ” has the meaning assigned thereto in regulation one ;

“ line ” has the meaning assigned thereto in regulation twenty-three ;

“locomotive” means a mechanically propelled vehicle running on a track of rails and constructed or used for moving other vehicles ;

“steam boiler” means any closed vessel, whether separate or one of a range, in which for any purpose steam is generated at pressure greater than atmospheric pressure and includes any economiser used to heat water being fed to any such vessel and any superheater used for heating steam.

(2) Expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Act or by these regulations shall (unless the contrary intention appears) have the same meanings in any document issued under the provisions of these regulations.

(3) The Interpretation Act, 1889(f), shall apply to the interpretation of these regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the order, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This order is made under the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954, s. 190, which empowers the Minister of Fuel and Power to re-enact (to the extent to which they could be enacted in regulations made under the Act and subject to modifications of the kind specified in that section) the provisions of regulations which will cease to have effect at the commencement of the Act.

The provisions set out as regulations in the schedule to this order apply to quarries. Part I specifies requirements relating to the provision and maintenance of materials and appliances, inspections of the quarry and access roads, the clearing back of material at the top of faces or sides to avoid danger from falls, the installation of ladders and the fencing of certain places. Certain precautions to be taken by workmen are specified, and the use of explosives is prohibited except in accordance with regulations applicable to the quarry.

Part II makes provision with regard to the safety of persons concerned with machinery while it is in motion, and the examination of lifting machines. Requirements are also specified relating to certain fittings and attachments for, and the cleaning and examination of, steam boilers and air receivers.

Part III deals with railway sidings which are deemed to form part of a quarry, and makes provision with regard to the safe installation of certain points and signal wires, the provision of equipment and safety devices, the safe operation of traffic, and the safety of persons passing on foot. The minimum ages for locomotive drivers and shunters are also specified.

Part IV lays down requirements relating to the medical examination of young persons under the age of 16 before their employment at quarries, and requires the provision of first aid facilities and (except where an inspector grants an exemption) the provision of accommodation for changing and drying clothes and for the taking of meals.

These regulations comprise, and will at the commencement of the Act replace, provisions of the Quarries General Regulations, 1938.

(f) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

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