

HSENI NEWS RELEASE

14 October 2009

QUARRIES SHOWCASE SAFETY

HSENI's Chairman, Professor Peter McKie, CBE, today praised Northern Ireland's quarry and quarry products sector for its commitment to improving its safety standards.

Professor McKie was speaking at the Quarry and Quarry Products Health and Safety Conference in Cookstown, where he presented awards to the winners of this year's Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland (QPANI) Health and Safety Awards Scheme.

Addressing the conference delegates Professor McKie said: **"The positive work of the quarry and quarry products industry, in raising health and safety standards, is a credit to the sector and should be an inspiration to other industries. The improvement by the companies in the sector is something that other industries could learn from."**

The QPANI aims to improve health and safety standards through its 'hard targets' initiative. Launched in 2005, it aimed to reduce reportable accidents by 50% over five years and with an annual reduction of 10% each year. The QPANI was supported by the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI) during the preparation and delivery of the Initiative.

Professor McKie continued: **"The innovative "hard targets" initiative is a positive example of how industry and the safety regulator can work together to drive up standards. One measure of this initiative's success has been the reduction in the fatal accident incident rate which has almost halved from 15.8 in 2004 to 8.3 in 2007."**

Welcoming the HSENI Chairman to the conference Pat Lyons, QPANI Chairman, remarked: **“The industry has shown great leadership and teamwork by breaking down instinctive barriers between HSENI and the industry, and indeed between member companies in sharing best practice to deliver continuous improvements in health and safety standards over recent years. However, we are certainly now in a very challenging economic period and there is a risk that standards could slide if we lose focus on driving health and safety standards forward. Strong visible leadership is now critical at a time when employees feel jobs are threatened and attention to personal health and safety may be reduced. The Association is determined through its member companies to strive for excellence in the vital area of health and safety”.**

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) is an executive Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.
2. HSENI, the regional health and safety authority, is the lead body responsible for the promotion and enforcement of health and safety at work standards in Northern Ireland.
3. The winners for the Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland Health and Safety Awards Scheme are:

COMPANY	SITE	Award
Tarmac	Carn Quarry	Gold
Tarmac	Craigantlet Quarry	Gold
Whitemountain Quarries	Whitemountain Quarry	Gold
Clarke Group	Slushill Quarry	Gold
FP McCann Ltd	Loughside Quarry	Gold
Lagan Cement	Kinnegad Quarry	Gold
Northstone Q & A Division	Croaghan Quarry	Gold
Acheson & Glover	Fivemiletown Quarry	Gold
Whitemountain Quarries	Fivemiletown Asphalt Plant	Gold
Lagan Cement	Kinnegad Cement Plant	Gold
Acheson & Glover	Fivemiletown Pavia Plant	Gold
RTU	Cloughfern Mortar Plant	Silver

4. For general media enquiries, please contact HSENI on 028 9024 3249 or email hse ni@detini.gov.uk