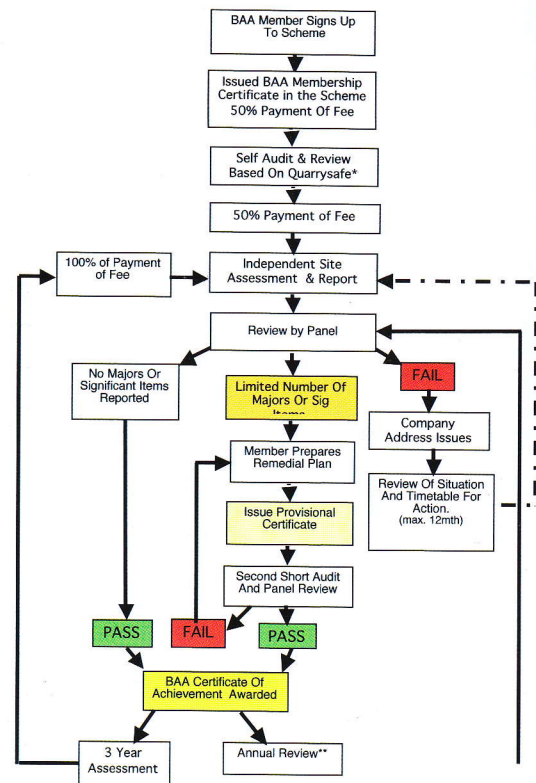


British Aggregates Association **Assessment of Operating Standards (in Quarries)**

The objective of the BAA scheme is to reassure its members that Operational Standards in their quarries meet the required standards and to demonstrate they are being managed and operated in a competent manner, in accordance with the guidance in the Approved Code of Practice to the Quarries Regulations 1999 and current environmental legislation. The scheme therefore provides a robust check on the competence of the team running a quarry which is assessed. Although comprehensive safety assessments are not deemed necessary, the BAA scheme provides an extremely valuable independent expert view on the safety of quarry operations and on whether the level of compliance with health, safety and environmental legislation meets an acceptable standard. It is not intended to replace existing health & safety management arrangements, but to provide the owner / operator with a good degree of comfort that the management of health, safety and the environment are achieving the required effect. It is recognised that, even in the best managed quarries, absolute perfection is unlikely. However, the BAA assessment is also designed to identify areas that need to be improved. In this way the secondary objective to establish a process of continuous improvement, as illustrated in the diagram, is established.



What is innovative or new?

There is no other process that provides an independent assessment of quarry operating standards for the owner / operator of quarries. This is particularly useful to SMEs who do not have a team of highly qualified health & safety managers.

The benefits of the scheme have been recognised by the HSE and QNJAC has endorsed the scheme as part of the industries Target Zero initiative.

How are benefits delivered?

The scheme seeks members commitment to continuous improvement in operating standard using the guidance published by the Camborne School of Mines to self audit and review their systems and health & safety management.

When they believe they are up to the required standards an independent third party assesses the operations and submits a detailed standard report.

This is repeated on a three year cycle as indicated in the flow chart.

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