

Press Release - Immediate

BAA Safety Scheme Gains Momentum

At this year's June AGM a record number of nine certificates were awarded to member companies that had successfully completed the Association's Assessment of Operating Standards Scheme. The successful companies included Huntsmans Quarries, Henry Streeter (Sand & Ballast), Johnston Quarry Group, Middleton Aggregates, Tillicoultry Quarries and Raymond Brown Minerals & Recycling. The awards were made by Eric Darlow MBE who has chaired the awarding panel since its inception in 2007.

During the past year the member involvement in the scheme has greatly increased with well over a third of all BAA members having now signed up. Since the scheme's inception 38 assessments have been conducted. These have ranged from small quarry one day assessments through to larger operations which have taken several days to assess.

The BAA is particularly pleased with the scheme as to date no company has withdrawn from the process and all that embark do eventually gain certification. The BAA and HSE are currently working together on a pilot intervention strategy scheme which should further enhance the standard of health and safety within small and medium sized quarrying companies. A further initiative that the BAA is investigating is to extend the scheme to larger multi-site companies so that the scheme can be of benefit to all its members.



Successful recipients (L to R) Wallace Menzies of Tillicoultry Quarries, Steve Cole of Raymond Brown, Eric Darlow MBE, Martin Freestone of Middleton Aggregates and David Glenn of Huntsmans Quarries.

Ends

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Notes for editors:

1. The British Aggregates Association (BAA) is the recognised voice of the UK's independent and SME aggregates sector with 110 members of which over 70 are quarry operators representing 13% of national output and with nearly 300 active quarry sites.
2. The Association's Assessment of Operating Standards scheme started in 2007. The scheme ensures continual improvement of all aspects of Health and Safety and has been endorsed and recommended by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee (QNJAC).
3. The scheme was recognised as a significant health and safety initiative by the Construction Products Association (CPA) in their 2010 edition of *Construction Products Innovation and Achievement* (CPIA).