

Dust Mitigation Plan

Environmental Permit Application Quarry No 3 and Quarry No 12

at

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Attard

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Update

Quarrying activities tend to generate dust from various sources such as:

- Crushing activities as a result of material which is being unloaded in a crusher, movement of aggregate and fines by means of loaders, loading trucks and the crushing of the rock material itself; the amount of dust generated depends on various factors including amongst other climatic conditions and the type of material being crushed.
- Whipping action of the wind on stockpiled material and also on fines within the confines of the quarry;
- Re-entrainment of the aggregate material and fines as a result of the repetitive passage of various heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) moving within the site;
- Unloading of inert material within the quarry confines;

The dust generated could fall immediately back to the ground within a few metres from its point of origin but it could remain suspended in the atmosphere for several kilometres, much depending on the size of the material becoming airborne and also on the current climatic conditions at the time of release.

A precautionary approach in mitigating the release of dusts from such working environments is always desirable. This will never eliminate all the dust but at least reduce a significant part of it from escaping from the site and causing any inconvenience outside the quarry perimeter. Good management practices will always be appreciated.

Currently the owners of the quarry employ various practices in order to mitigate the impacts of dust released during the operations taking place at the site. These include:

- All stone crushers have suppressing sprinkler systems in operation and have dust covers over the conveyor belts, thus reducing considerably the release of dust during these operations.
- Wherever possible, crushers are placed in areas least prone to the effects of the wind; Crushers are usually located in the proximity of the area being excavated albeit now there is one which is under cover and another dedicated to crushing globigerina limestone for Torba;
- Two water mist canons are also used adjacent to rock crushers in order to reduce airborne dust;
- Stockpiles are kept in sunken areas around the quarry, well shielded from the effect of the wind. In areas where stockpiles are exposed, these will be moved to a more sheltered area within a year.
- Drop heights are also limited, thus reducing the possibility of dust being carried away by the breeze or the wind;
- Most of the quarrying area is well shielded from the prevailing wind by large heaps of material which have been deposited in parts of the quarry several years ago; In areas where stockpiles are exposed, these will be moved to a more sheltered area within a year.
- The internal roads have all been covered with concrete which reduces the generation of dust resulting from the attrition of rock from the effect of truckloads moving on the rock surface.
- The internal roads of the quarry are sprinkled with water by means of a bowser 4-5 times a day depending of prevailing need.
- Material which enters the quarry is usually excavated material and so would have less fine dusts in it.

- The new access through Zebbug Road has also resulted in better housekeeping along that established connection with the main thoroughfare including wheel washing facilities which has now been installed.