REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

QUARRY ACT NO. 9 OF 2013

Health and Safety Standards Regulation Order No. 158 of 2025

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REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

QUARRY ACT NO. 9 OF 2013

Health and Safety Standards Regulation Order No. 158 of 2025

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by subsection 54(2) of the Quarry Act No. 9 of 2013, I, the Honourable MAHE RICK TCHAMAKO, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, on the advice of the Commissioner, make the following Regulation.

PART 1 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1 Interpretation

In this Regulation, unless the contrary intention appears:

explosive has the same meaning as defined under the Explosives Act No. 13 of 2023;

shotfirer means a person who is qualified to conduct explosive activity at a working area;

working area includes the area of the quarry excavation face and any area in connection with the quarry operation.

PART 2 WORKING AREA

2 Standard for the working area

(1) A permit holder and a quarry company must ensure that:

(a) there is a sign board visible with warning sign placed at the entrance of the working area; and

(b) the working area is kept clean at all times; and

(c) there is a safety zone within the working area; and

(d) there is an excavation plan in place to ensure that excavation is carried out in such a way as to avoid risk to the health and safety of any person within the working area.

(2) In addition to subclause (1), a quarry company must ensure that the working area is properly fenced.

3 Disposal of waste

A permit holder and a quarry company must dispose any waste generated during the quarry operation at a proper dumping site.

4 Application to work after working hours

(1) For the purpose of this clause, **relevant authority** includes, a municipality, a custom nakamal, a chief and a community surrounding a working area.

(2) A permit holder or a quarry company who intends to work after the working hours, must apply to the Commissioner in the form set out under the Schedule.

(3) The Commissioner may after consultation with the relevant authority, approve the application made under subclause (2).

5 Lighting within the working area

A permit holder and a quarry company must provide adequate lighting within the working area upon the approval of the application made under subclause 4(3).

6 Construction of fuel tank

A permit holder or a quarry company constructing a fuel tank within the working area must ensure that:

(a) the space where the fuel tank is constructed is secured; and

(b) there is no leakage that may be exposed to the environment.

7 Storage of fuel drum

A permit holder or a quarry company that uses a fuel drum at the working area must ensure that the fuel drum is safely stored.

8 Evacuation plan and safety drills

A permit holder and a quarry company must:

(a) have in place, an evacuation plan; and

(b) conduct safety drills regularly to its employees.

PART 3 EMPLOYEES

9 Personal protective equipment

(1) For the purpose of this clause, **personal protective equipment** includes any of the following;

(a) safety boots;

(b) gloves;

(c) wearing glass;

(d) dusk musk;

(e) hard cloths with reflectors;

(f) hard hat.

(2) A permit holder and a quarry company must:

(a) provide personal protective equipment to its employee; and

(b) ensure that an employee use the personal protective equipment when performing his or her function.

PART 4 QUARRY MACHINES, TOOLS AND OTHER EQUIPMENTS

10 Conditions for quarry machines

A machine used in connection with any quarry operations must:

(a) be in a good working condition; and

(b) in the case of heavy vehicle - meet the requirements under the Road Traffic (Control) Act [CAP 29]; and

(c) in the case of machines with lights - have good lightings.

11 Vehicles transporting aggregates

A vehicle transporting aggregates must:

(a) not be overload with aggregates; and

(b) have functional tailgate to prevent aggregates from falling during transportation.

12 Conditions for tools and other equipment

(1) A permit holder and a quarry company must ensure that any tool and other equipment used in the working area is in a good working condition.

(2) If an employee when performing his or her functions, finds out that the tool or equipment he or she is using may cause harm to his or her health and safety, he or she must:

(a) cease to perform his or her functions; and

(b) report the incident immediately to the foreman.

PART 5 EXPLOSIVES

13 Usage, storage and transportation of explosives

A permit holder and a quarry company must ensure that any explosive used at the working area is safely stored and transported.

14 Condition for storing explosives

A permit holder and a quarry company must ensure that an explosive is stored in a place that is secured.

15 Operation involving usage, storage and transportation of explosives

A permit holder and a quarry company must ensure that any operation involving the usage, storage and transportation of an explosive must be performed by a person who is qualified as a shotfirer.

16 Rules relating to certain explosive matters

A permit holder and a quarry company must have rules outlining the procedures for the following:

(a) shotfiring operations at the working area; and

(b) authorising other person not qualified as a shotfirer, to assist in the operations involving the usage, storage and transportation of an explosive; and

(c) dealing with misfires.

17 Procedure prior to blasting

(1) For the purpose of this clause, **warning systems** includes the used of notice, a system of audible signals and direct personal notification to warn people.

(2) A shotfirer after consultation with the quarry foreman, must comply with the following procedures prior to blasting:

(a) determine the danger zone that might be created by the firing of the explosive; and

(b) ensure that there are warning systems in place; and

(c) ensure to minimise the risk of flyrocks beyond the danger zone and must state any special precautions required to minimise the risk.

18 Liability for any damage

A permit holder and a quarry company are liable for the damage caused during the blasting of an explosive.

PART 6 HEALTH AND SANITATION

19 Shelter at the working area

(1) A permit holder and a quarry company must provide a shelter at the working area for resting purposes.

(2) Shelter provided for under subclause (1), must have a proper toilet and a shower.

20 Safe drinking water

A permit holder and a quarry company must provide safe and adequate drinking water for its employees.

21 Commencement

This Order commences on the day on which it is made.

Made at Port Vila this 15th **day of** August **, 2025.**

MINISTERE DES TERRES RESSOURCES NATURELLES REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Honourable MAHE RICK TCHAMAKO
Minister of Minister of Lands and Natural Resources

SCHEDULE

AFTER WORKING HOURS
APPLICATION FORM

A. PERSONAL DETAILS

Name of Quarry Company: ..... Address:

.....

Contact: (Email) .....

(Tel) .....

Quarry Permit No: .....

B. QUARRY PERMIT CLASS *(Please tick correct box)*

- ☐ Commercial Permit
- ☐ Landscaping Permit
- ☐ Public Works Permit
- ☐ Occasional Permit *(go to "D ")*

C. QUARRY SIZE *(Please tick correct box)*

- ☐ Small Quarry (between 1,000m^3 – 19,99m^3 per annum)
- ☐ Medium Quarry (between 20,000m^3 – 49,999m^3 per annum)
- ☐ Large Quarry (> 50,000m^3/annum)

D. DETAILS OF AREA

Quarry Location: .....

E. REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- ☐ Site Safety Plan for After – Hours Work

- ☐ Noise and lighting Control Measures
- ☐ Risk Assessment (If operating near Communities)
- ☐ Notice letters to nearby Residents/communities
- ☐ Provide a list of all necessary PPE for night shift

F. REQUESTED AFTER – HOURS DETAILS

Proposed date(s) of work: .....

Proposed start time: .....

Proposed End Time: .....

Reason for After – Hours Operation:

... ...