

## Safer by Design

### KEY MESSAGES:

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- UEPG, the European Aggregates Association, believes that the only sustainable goal, in terms of workforce health and safety, is to focus on Zero Harm. This requires not only a fully competency-assured workforce, but all elements of the supply chain working in concert to ensure that employees are provided with plant and equipment that is genuinely 'SAFER BY DESIGN'.
- SAFER BY DESIGN is voluntary guidance promoted by UEPG that addresses the design vacuum that often exists between the manufacturers and users of mobile plant used in quarry extraction and processing. This guidance recommends core safety requirements on Access systems, Visibility, Safety & Security, Maintenance, Environment & Health, for off-road mobile plant ranging from excavators, dump-trucks, loaders, bulldozers, to mobile crushing & screening equipment.
- SAFER BY DESIGN does not, in any way, compete with Standards, nor is any aspect intended to be compulsory. Individual companies, however, are at liberty to take more robust positions. As a part of the procurement process, purchasers of mobile plant may wish to consider requesting their manufacturer or supplier to submit risk assessments relating to each of the relevant categories, with specific reference to the criteria listed on the 'Safer by Design' web pages of [www.Safequarry.com](http://www.Safequarry.com).
- The ultimate target of Zero Harm cannot and will not be met unless all relevant contributory factors, including the supply chain procurement process, are addressed. Accordingly, UEPG calls upon stakeholders to:
  - **Lobby** for building SAFER BY DESIGN criteria into national, European & International Standards
  - **Utilise** the SAFER BY DESIGN criteria when purchasing new or re-engineered plant
  - **Retrofit**, where practicable and subject to possible warranty limitations, using the SAFER BY DESIGN pages as checklists
  - **Share expertise** to help prevent harm to persons involved in or affected by the operation and/or maintenance of mobile plant
- It behoves every health and safety Regulator to support, actively and publicly, any legitimate initiative focused on Zero Harm by preventing death, injury and ill health in workplaces. UEPG is promoting SAFER BY DESIGN as an initiative that demonstrates the real 'state of the art' that should be reflected by the CE mark. UEPG believes that influencing equipment design in this way is simply the 'right thing to do'.

### BACKGROUND

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Originating in the UK, based on separate German and UK surveys highlighting the prevalence of inadequate design as principal root causes of injuries, 'Safer by Design' is now a Board-approved project of UEPG.

Aggregates are crushed rock, sand and gravel, used to construct Europe's essential infrastructure including homes, roads, railways, schools and hospitals. In Europe, some 3 billion tonnes per year of aggregates are produced by 14,000 companies (the majority of which are SMEs) in 24,000 extraction sites, providing jobs for more than 250,000 direct and indirect employees. UEPG now represents national aggregates associations and producers in 31 European countries, see [www.uepg.eu](http://www.uepg.eu).