

13 January 2016

To: Aspasa Members

Cc: Alan Cluett

ASPASA ABOUT FACE 2016

1. **Background**

Aspasa (Aggregate and Sand Producers Association of Southern Africa) leads the way in the Mining Industry in regards to Environmental Stewardship.

Aspasa was formed in August 1990 by the major producers of construction aggregates and sand in the country, and now represents the majority of the country's production capacity of these materials.

The purpose of its formation was to have a body which could coordinate industry opinion, make representations to the authorities on matters of importance to the industry, keep members informed about upcoming and new legislation, to look for ways of improving methods of production and to keep statistics for the industry.

One of the first subjects to be examined by Aspasa was environmental management. Producers were well aware of the bad public image of the quarry industry in relation to spoiling of the environment and Aspasa was determined to try and improve this image by encouraging sound environmental management among producers.

2. **The About Face Environmental Audit process was born and developed.**

The name, About Face and the logo came from the United States of America. In 1975 the then National Crushed Stone Association, later to become National Stone Association, launched the program with the intention of changing the industry's appearance and in turn, its image. The National Stone Association agreed that South Africa might adopt their About Face program to suit our conditions. The name changed to About Face RSA with consequential changes to the logo.

The South African About Face RSA award program was slightly different to the US one, in that it laid more emphasis on the general concept of environmental management, where the American program emphasises the beautification aspect. But both aspects are important in each of the programs and both programs were intended to draw the attention of the public, the local communities and the authorities to the responsible role which the quarry industry is playing in conservation of the environment.

The purpose was to recognise quarries which had made constructive and positive efforts to commence and develop an environmental management program and to enhance the appearance of their property. In making the awards, the industry would draw the attention of its own members and the public to the improvement being made.

The present changes to the About Face Program is a significant step even reaching more Environmental heights in the Quarry Industry in South Africa.

The following are some of the major changes that have been made since the inception of the programme since 1990 (25 years ago)

3. Introduction of Annual Audits for About Face 2016

In 2014, the Management Committee (Mancom) of ASPASA agreed that the ASPASA About Face Programme would be run on an annual basis across the industry. The introduction of the 2015 programme was announced late in the year and participation in the 2015 programme was significantly reduced as a number of member operations had not budgeted for the 2015 Audit programme.

In total thirty-five quarries (91 in 2014) were audited in 2015, including nine new members. The 2015 Audit increased emphasis on the physical conditions at the respective operations allocating more than one-third of the total score to physical aspects. The Auditor also spent more time during the Audit discussing applicable legislation and industry best practice. Support documentation issued to auditees was expanded to include a selection of applicable legislation and other relevant documentation. Standards across all auditees were noted to have increased significantly.

In 2015 Mancom reaffirmed that the ASPASA About Face programme is to be run on an annual basis. A requirement of ManCom is that during evenly numbered years the programme will continue as it has in the past, but that during the odd-numbered years the programme will place significantly more emphasis on the physical aspects at the operation including aesthetics and some educating and guidance to begin.

In accordance with this requirement the 2016 ASPASA About Face Audit will follow the same structure and approach as the 2014 and 2015 audits, i.e. approximately 20% of audit time on the physical.

By contrast the 2017 Audit will focus approximately 60% on the physical with the balance of the time being spent reviewing shortcomings noted in the management system documentation noted in the previous years Audit.

4. ASPASA About Face 2016 Protocol

A number of changes have been introduced to the 2016 ASPASA Audit Protocol. These are discussed below.

Name Change

The original About Face programme was adapted from the North American Sand and Gravel Association's About Face programme in 1994. A condition imposed was that the South African programme be differentiated from the USA programme through the incorporation of a distinguishing feature such as the addition of RSA in the name, hence **About Face RSA**.

Since 1994 ASPASA have developed and adapted the original programme such that it is essentially a completely different 'stand-alone' programme specifically designed for South African quarrying. The

program has also, over the ensuing time period been referred to as the **ASPASA About Face RSA** programme.

The 2016 programme will simply be called **ASPASA About Face 2016**, with the inclusion of ASPASA, as opposed to RSA, being the distinguishing feature in the title. Recognition to the origin of the ASPASA About Face programme will be afforded to the North American Sand and Gravel Association in the text of the Audit Protocol (now the NSSGA).

5. Key changes included in ASPASA About Face 2016

5.1 Change in format

The format of the Audit protocol has been simplified with the removal of three columns, namely, the columns headed Non-compliance, N/A and Agreed Score.

The Compliance column includes 'conditional formatting' that colour differentiates the block between Red through to Green, depending on the score allocated, Red for O and Green for Full Score.

The 2016 Audit protocol allows for the awarding of partial points for improvements or for the introduction of *bona fide* programmes or projects that are in progress at the time of the Audit.

Due to time pressures the traditional Auditor comments will be limited to key observations/findings noted during the Audit. The Auditee will be responsible for recording notes and comments during the Audit.

5.2 Scoring

The Total Score achievable has increase over the 2015 Audit protocol. This has come about through a combination of a change of emphasis in the 2016 Audit protocol to align with risk (see below) as well as through the introduction of new requirements mostly associated with changes to the legal requirements.

Scoring has been changed to change emphasis away from less important aspects to those that have more significant/severe consequence for owners, Directors, Managers and Employees. Table 1 below shows changes in Element scoring since 2012 when the new Auditor was appointed.

Table 1: About Face Scoring over the period 2012 to 2016

AUDIT SECTION #	AUDIT ASPECT	EMS Element Points Awarded							
		2012	%	2014	%	2015	%	2016	%
4.1	General Requirements for an EMS	10	0.8%	8	0.7%	10	0.8%	20	1.3%
4.2	Environmental Policy	27	2.1%	23	2.0%	27	2.2%	58	3.8%
4.3.1	Environmental Effects	88	6.8%	87	7.6%	62	4.9%	93	6.0%
4.3.2	Legal Requirement	139	10.8%	125	10.9%	127	10.1%	192	12.5%
4.3.3	Objectives & Targets + Programme	43	3.3%	31	2.7%	33	2.6%	32	2.1%
4.4.1	Structure & Responsibility	34	2.6%	25	2.2%	35	2.8%	61	4.0%
4.4.2	Training	75	5.8%	59	5.1%	64	5.1%	61	4.0%
4.4.3	Consultation & Communication	67	5.2%	68	5.9%	68	5.4%	70	4.6%
4.4.4 & 4.4.5	Documentation & Document Control	96	7.4%	72	6.3%	72	5.7%	73	4.7%
4.4.6	EMS Operational Controls	315	24.4%	321	28.0%	458	36.6%	505	32.8%
4.4.7	Emergency Response	29	2.2%	29	2.5%	29	2.3%	40	2.6%
4.5.1	Performance Monitoring	52	4.0%	42	3.7%	36	2.9%	42	2.7%
4.5.2	Evaluation of compliance	25	1.9%	41	3.6%	38	3.0%	48	3.1%
4.5.3	Non-Conformance Control	71	5.5%	45	3.9%	37	3.0%	53	3.4%
4.5.4	Records Management	18	1.4%	18	1.6%	18	1.4%	32	2.1%
4.5.5	Auditing	94	7.3%	57	5.0%	63	5.0%	55	3.6%
4.6.1	Management Review	43	3.3%	30	2.6%	31	2.5%	73	4.7%
5	Mining Charter Requirements	65	5.0%	65	5.7%	45	3.6%	30	2.0%
		1291	100%	1146	100%	1253	100%	1538	100%

5.3 Revision of Audit requirements/questions

Audit questions that have been viewed as 'non-value adding' have been removed from the 2016 Audit protocol. Where legal or other requirements, for example, regulations covering Residue stockpiles and Air Quality NAEIS registration have been introduced.

5.4 Introduction of ISO14001:2015

In September 2015, ISO introduced the revised ISO14001 Environmental Management System guideline. ISO have given until 2018 for participants in the certification programme to adopt the new requirements, format and numbering of the 2015 system.

The ASPASA will amend the ASPASA About Face protocol so as to be compliant with the ISO time frame. [The ASPASA About Face 2018 Audit protocol will be compliant with ISO14001:2015.](#)

ASPASA will offer training to Members on how to prepare for the conversion to ISO14001:2015 commencing in the latter part of 2016 and through 2017.

An advantage of the ISO14001:2015 is that the documentation requirements and numbering are consistent across the ISO Quality System, the incoming ISO Health and Safety System, and, as such, will aid in the integration of the three management systems across the industry.

As an introduction ISO14 001:2015 element titles have been included, where applicable, in the header sections of each element in the ASPASA About Face 2016 Audit protocol.

5.5 Inclusion of Performance Graph

Both the Audit Protocol cover page, as well as the Auditor Summary Report, include a graph showing the performance of the participating operation over time.

5.6 In Conclusion

ASPASA members should feel free to invite their neighbors (local committees), officials from Regulators, Provincial and Municipal Officials to sit in on these audits. Not only will individuals gain a great amount of knowledge and information, but it could also assist in establishing good relationships with those concerned. Junior Managers and other employees in a copy who are not

involved in “Environmental Issues” could also gain significant understanding and knowledge by sitting in on these audits. Senior Officials would be good supporters of the process and understand what is trying to be advised by doing these audits. ASPASA does find that some Senior Officials don’t always understand or see the need of these exercises.

We trust these “audits”, which are more of an educational process, will go well in 2016.

Kind Regards

NICO PIENAAR
DIRECTOR