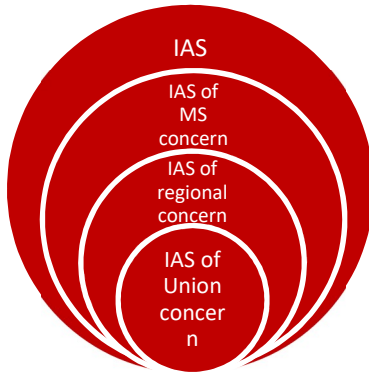


Invasive Alien Species – Guidance for the cement industry

Introduction

What are Invasive Alien Species (IAS)?



According to the European Commission, Invasive Alien Species “are animals and plants that are introduced accidentally or deliberately into a natural environment where they are not normally found, with serious negative consequences for their new environment. They represent a major threat to native plants and animals in Europe, causing damage worth billions of euros to the European economy every year”.

Why are we concerned?

Quarry sites run the risk of becoming colonised by IAS. The ability of an IAS to easily adapt to its surrounds, grow and spread rapidly and, in some instances, prevent the development of native species, means that they can easily colonise quarry environments and have a negative impact on native biodiversity.

EU legislation

On 1 January 2015, an [EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species](#) entered into force, the aim of which is to tackle the issue of IAS and thus protect Europe’s biodiversity and ecosystems. It covers three core areas: prevention, early detection and rapid eradication, and management.

On 13 July 2016, a [List of IAS of Union Concern](#) was adopted. This initial list contains 37 species which will now be subject to the restrictions laid out under the IAS Regulation. These include keeping, importing, selling, breeding and growing IAS. Members States will also be required to ensure early detection, management and rapid eradication of IAS present in the EU

Pathways of introduction – some examples

- Natural introduction - for example, wind, water bodies, animals etc
- Human introduction - for example seeds
- Involuntary introduction - for example trucks and imported materials (eg soil)

Recommendations for Prevention

1. Always favour use of native species in quarry rehabilitation
2. Never use Invasive Alien Species (IAS, listed under national/EU blacklists) in quarry rehabilitation
3. Avoid the use of potential IAS (i.e on ‘watchlists’) in quarry rehabilitation
4. Only use seeds for which clear traceability information exists in order to ensure absence of IAS
5. If possible, implement wheel cleaning mechanisms for vehicles at the entrance to, and exit from, the quarry
6. Educate employees and local stakeholders on the issue of IAS

Recommendations for Management and Control

1. It is important to bear in mind that the management of Invasive Alien Species is species specific
2. Engage with experts
3. Identify the potential risk of IAS at site level
 - a. Analyse the potential for eradication (including a cost/benefit analysis)
 - b. Develop management measures for concerned species
 - c. Always act in accordance with EU, national and local legislation
4. Monitor presence of IAS at site level. For example:
 - a. Provide training to employees
 - b. Undertake an inventory of IAS present in the quarry

Remember: Prevention is better than cure!