

Summary of dust management and mitigation conditions for quarry activities

The Resource Management Act (RMA) is the governing legislation for applying and deciding on resource consents. It prescribes the processing and information requirements for resource consent applications, including notification requirements. The Canterbury Air Regional Plan contains guidance on the assessment of effects to be included with consent applications for discharges to air. The RMA requires that all proposals be assessed on their own merits, be received and processed in good faith and be assessed on the environmental effects that arise or could arise from the proposal.

However, the below is considered by Environment Canterbury to be included as best practice conditions to ensure quarries are delivering practicable measures to mitigate dust. This is a generic list of the mitigation measures typically included on quarry consents. When applied to each quarry, the conditions will include site specific limits for factors such as wind speed and dust levels.

Quarry activities include:

- Bunding and site preparation
- Extraction
- Roding and transportation of materials
- Stockpiling
- Crushing and screening
- Rehabilitation (including cleanfill deposition)

Summary of dust management/mitigation conditions to be used:

- Staging and progressive rehabilitation to limit the maximum area quarried at any one time.
- Dust Management Plan, submitted before the consent commences.
- Measuring of wind speed and direction, rainfall and temperature at the quarry, and no quarrying when wind speeds exceed specified limits;
- Continuous dust monitoring at boundary of the site (located to measure dust effects on closest neighbouring dwellings):
 - Fitted with alarm system which sends a warning to the quarry manager or other nominated person;
 - Requires investigation and response or cessation of quarrying if PM₁₀ exceeds specified limits;

- Requirement that the discharge shall not cause suspended or deposited particulate matter, which has a noxious, dangerous, offensive or objectionable effect, beyond the boundary.
- Management of dust relative to receiving environment
- Hours of operation
- Other mitigation required to minimise dust:
 - Use of water to suppress dust (usually water carts and sprinkler systems)
 - Re-grassing as soon as possible after quarrying;
 - Sealed roads
 - Limiting vehicle speeds
 - Shelterbelts