



Application of the SME Test Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) Regulations 2025 S.I 283 of 2025.

Screening question

Is the new policy, primary or secondary legislation, or regulatory compliance requirement relevant for SMEs¹?

The following questions must be answered:

- Are SMEs within the scope of the measure? Yes No
- Does the measure specifically target SMEs? Yes No
- Will or could SMEs be impacted directly or indirectly by the measure? Yes No
- Are SME impacts likely to be more substantial than on other companies, for example, in terms of adverse effects? Yes No

If you said yes to any of the above, complete Sections 1-5.

1. Consultation

1. What consultation will/has taken place to capture input from the SME community, particularly those most impacted by this measure?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Public consultation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Consultation with SME representative bodies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Notifications of consultation to database of interested stakeholders | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Interviews and panels with experts | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Webinars | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Roundtables | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

¹ Medium <250 employees, Small < 50 employees, Micro SME <10 employees
As per EU definition of an SME: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-definition_en



If Other, please provide details:

2. Identification of affected businesses

2a: Please identify the type of SMEs that will be directly or indirectly (i.e. SMEs not in scope, but potentially affected indirectly, for instance through impacts on supply chain) affected by proposed policy change -

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Micro (1-9 employees) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Small (10-49 employees) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Medium (50-249) employees | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| All of the above | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2b: Has an estimate been carried out of the numbers of micro, small and medium companies affected directly or indirectly by the measure?

Yes No

2c: Will the proposed policy change have a greater impact on SMEs in any particular economic sector?

Yes No

If Yes, please specify.

The amendments will impact all those who operate a Quarry in Ireland.

2d: Will the proposed policy change have a greater impact on SMEs in any particular region?

Yes No

If Yes, please specify.





3. Assessment of the impacts on SMEs

3a: What are the expected positive impacts of the policy change on SMEs ?

- Improved regulatory framework Yes No
- Improved working conditions Yes No
- Cost savings Yes No

If other, please provide details.

3b: Will the proposed changes result in any of the following impacts for SMEs?

- Administrative costs, including the obligation to provide information on the activities or products of the company, including one-off and recurring administrative costs? Yes No
- Compliance costs, including the obligation to pay fees or duties; and costs created by the obligation to adapt the nature of the product/service and/or production/service delivery process to meet economic, social or environmental standards. Yes No
- Other impacts, including on business entry and exit; competition and competitiveness? Yes No
- Discourage entrepreneurship or innovation? Yes No
- Impacts of any proposed exemption thresholds on business growth? Yes No
- Impacts on SME population composition and location? Yes No
- Additional reporting requirements? Yes No



4. Assessment of alternative options and mitigating measures

4a. If the analysis above has shown that the proposed policy changes will result in negative impacts on SMEs, has there been consideration of any measures to mitigate against these impacts.

Examples of mitigating measures include

- Exemption for certain SME cohorts (e.g. micros);
- Simplification of administrative procedures and use of plain English;
- Reduction of information requirements;
- Less onerous or less frequent inspection regimes for small businesses;
- Provision of longer transitions periods for SMEs so that they can have more time to allocate resources when dealing with policies;
- Lower administrative fees;
- Access to financing or lower interest rates in order to comply;
- Training and assistance with compliance;
- Requirement for SMEs to have only to register for a certain activity rather than having to be fully licensed;
- One-stop shops.

Yes No

Please provide details.

While there is a requirement under the new Quarries Regulations 2025 to submit approved forms, these notifications to the Health and Safety Authority will become more efficient with the introduction of simplified approved forms which can be submitted online. Previously there was no template for such reporting which made the task onerous on operators.

The obligation to countersign forms in relation to inspection, maintenance and testing schemes, will not unduly impact smaller and medium size enterprises. Although consideration was given to the action of countersigning documents onsite, it was agreed with the Health and Safety Authority that the benefits of safety and good practice on quarrying sites far outweigh the minimal burden on operators which brings the obligations of quarry operators in line with mining regulations obligations.



5. Post-completion of SME Test

5a: Have you noted the outcome of the SME Test identifying the impacts and provision for mitigating measures, under the Impacts section of the Memorandum for Government proposing the policy changes?

Yes No

5b: Have you made this form available publicly on your Department website?

Yes No

If not, please give reason why².

For further information please contact: ESBPU@enterprise.gov.ie

Entrepreneurship and Small Business Unit

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

² It is expected that all completed Tests will be published. Redactions may be made to sensitive material. Very robust reasons must be provided if not publishing.