



MALTA RESOURCES AUTHORITY

**LIST OF POLICIES RELEVANT
TO DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY**

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The issuing of a quarry licence is based on a mineral resources management plan built on economic, social and environmental considerations. These considerations are formulated in a comprehensive list of policies relevant to all phases of the extractive industry.

The policies are related to new operations, reactivation of old quarries, extensions, renewals, restoration of disused quarries, conservation of mineral resources, protection of the environment, social and community issues, fair competition, price regulation, quality standards, information, consultation with interested parties and national and international obligations.

The objectives of the Directorate for Minerals Resources are directed towards the promotion, regulation, exploration and management of Malta's mineral resources. The Directorate's purpose is to facilitate the development of the mineral extractive industry in harmony with contemporary social, economic and environmental policy targets.

| Functional Aspect | Policy No | Description of Policy |
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| Mineral Resources | RES01 | MRA shall establish which mineral resource may be exploited commercially on the basis of economic, environmental and social considerations. |
| | RES02 | MRA shall endeavour to provide a reliable and sustainable supply of good quality minerals to the construction industry and, where appropriate, to other industries. |
| | RES03 | MRA shall undertake a detailed study to assess the feasibility of importing, where appropriate, minerals as a substitute to local minerals, based on economic, environmental and social considerations. |
| Regulation of Mineral Extraction | REG01 | The extraction of minerals by open pit or mining operation shall require a licence issued by MRA for a specified term. |
| | REG02 | MRA shall issue regulations to the extractive industry defining the licensing terms and the conditions under which operations may be conducted. |
| Resource Conservation | CON01 | MRA shall endeavour to conserve mineral resources by minimising waste, providing protection against sterilisation of resource by non extractive developments, and safeguarding against non-competitive and/or excess/under exploitation. |
| | CON02 | MRA shall undertake a detailed study to identify any economic use of mineral waste, including demolished stone. |
| | CON03 | All excavations deeper than 5 meters, including those of housing developments, shall require the approval of MRA. |
| | CON04 | No excavations deeper than 1 meter are permitted in the Blue Clay Formation where such formation forms part of the slopes beneath Upper Coralline Limestone scarp. Such areas include those within the Building Scheme. |
| Environment Protection | ENV01 | In assessing applications for licences for the extraction of minerals, MRA shall give due regard to the restoration of the geo-environment and shall demand the restoration of extraction sites to the original conditions once the mineral is exhausted. |
| | ENV02 | In granting applications for extensions of existing licensed extraction sites, MRA shall demand the restoration of the exhausted site prior to the commencement of extraction from the extension. |
| | ENV03 | No excavations or quarry operations in geo-environmentally sensitive areas shall be authorised. These areas include sites of geological, geomorphological, hydrological and hydrogeological interest. |

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| | ENV04 | MRA shall undertake a study to assess the feasibility of alternative extractive industry. |
| Fair Competition | CMP01 | MRA shall ensure fair competition in all practices, operations and activities in the extractive industry. |
| Price Regulation | PRC01 | MRA shall regulate the price structure of any activity related to mineral resources and, where appropriate, shall establish the mechanisms whereby the price for the acquisition, production, processing, storage and distribution of the mineral resource is determined. |
| Quality and Security Standards | STD01 | MRA shall establish minimum quality standards of the resources in accordance with establish international practice. |
| | STD02 | MRA shall establish minimum safety standards for the operators and activities of the extractive industry. |
| Information | INF01 | MRA shall provide general information to the public and the industry on matters relating to mineral resources. |
| | INF02 | MRA shall undertake an educational campaign in schools to promote a better understanding of the importance of minerals in daily life. |
| International Obligations | OBL01 | MRA shall ensure that all regulations, monitoring and control of practices, operations and activities related to the exploration and exploitation of minerals shall comply with obligations entered into by the Government. |
| Government Policies | POL01 | MRA shall provide advice to Government on policies relating to the exploration and exploitation of minerals. |
| | POL02 | MRA shall perform such other functions as may from time to time be assigned to it by the Government. |
| | POL03 | MRA shall liaise with other entities connected with the extractive industry in order to ensure the harmonised conduction of all practices, operations and activities of the industry. |
| Consultations | CST01 | In assessing applications for mineral extraction licences and their extensions, MRA shall consult with other entities that have a vested interest in the extractive industry. |
| | CST02 | No mineral extraction licence and no extension to any existing licensed extractive site shall be granted by MRA if the application violates any relevant policy of MEPA as defined in the Minerals Subject Plan, or if the relevant Local Council has a valid objection to such licence or extension. |