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UK CEMENT INDUSTRY BEATS ITS 2010 AIR EMISSIONS TARGETS 3 YEARS EARLY

The British Cement Association (BCA) today published its 2007 annual *Performance* report which showed the industry beating its 2010 Environment Agency Sector Plan targets for emissions to air of dust, NO_x and SO₂ three years ahead of schedule. These significant reductions have come about as a direct result of over £240 million being invested in new plant, technologies, and processes over the past few years.

Against 2010 targets of 0.15 kg/tonne¹ for dust emissions to air, 2.50 kg/tonne NO_x emissions to air, and 1.10 kg/tonne SO₂ emissions to air, the industry achieved actual emissions of 0.11 kg/tonne for dust, 2.20 kg/tonne for NO_x and 0.91 kg/tonne for SO₂.

“These are significant advances for the industry and our members: Castle Cement (Hanson), CEMEX UK, Lafarge Cement UK and Tarmac Buxton Lime and Cement, are to be congratulated” said Dr Pal Chana, Acting CEO. Taken together with the industry performance on CO₂, where the 2007 emission was 3.7 million tonnes lower than 1990, the overall environmental burden to air from the cement manufacturing in process in the UK is at its lowest ever.

Other highlights from *Performance* include a 36% reduction in health and safety lost time incidents; a 100% compliance record for quarry restoration and biodiversity plans; and the setting of stringent new environmental targets for 2015.

“I am particularly pleased that health and safety lost time incidents (LTIs) have dropped so dramatically” said Dr Chana. “The industry set itself the challenging target of zero LTIs and is striving to achieve it. We still have some way to go to realize this ambition, but we are totally committed to it.”

The cement industry's outstanding performance comes against a backdrop of industry alignment which will see the merger of the BCA, the Quarry Products Association (QPA) and The Concrete Centre (TCC) on 1st January 2009. An early commitment for the new, as yet to be named, organization is the industry's own *Sustainable Concrete Declaration*. The objectives and commitments contained in the declaration are outlined in *Performance* and will form the backbone of the cement industry's future sustainability policy. Cement and concrete are essential to economic and social development and the most sustainable way to supply the UK construction industry is through a healthy domestic cement industry that is run with sustainability at its core.

The report is available from the BCA or can be downloaded from www.cementindustry.co.uk

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¹ Kilogram/tonne cement, where cement is calculated on a Portland Cement Equivalent (PCe) basis. PCe is a normalising factor related to cement output, enabling a comparison of impacts such as environmental between sites whilst taking into consideration differing production methods, cement types and movement of intermediate products.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The British Cement Association (BCA) is the trade and research organization that represents the interests of the UK's cement industry in its relations with Her Majesty's Government, the European Union and relevant organizations in the UK. Members of the BCA are Castle Cement (Hanson), CEMEX UK, Lafarge Cement UK and Tarmac Buxton Lime and Cement. They are the major domestic manufacturers and produce over 90% of the cement sold in the UK.