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**UK cement manufacturers comply with new Waste Incineration Directive**

All four members of the British Cement Association – Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, Cemex UK and Lafarge UK – fully comply with the Waste Incineration Directive (WID) which came into force on 28 December 2005. The Directive aims to minimise the negative impact on the environment through pollution by emissions to air, soil, surface and groundwater and the resulting risks to human health. The Directive applies to all plants that recover energy from waste or incinerate waste for disposal. Cement manufacturers in the UK have spent in excess of £12million in preparation for compliance with WID.

“The UK cement manufacturers have invested to ensure cement making in the future is more sustainable. Compliance with the Waste Incineration Directive provides assurance that emissions controls meet the necessary high standards for environmental performance. The economic and societal benefits of using wastes as fuels are well established and WID compliance allows the industry to develop this further,” Mike Gilbert, Chief Executive of the British Cement Association explained.

The cement industry plays an important role in minimising some of the UK’s waste disposal problems by providing an environmentally sound alternative to illegal dumping, landfill or incineration. “Last year, 230,000 tonnes of waste was used as waste-derived fuel, saving about 190,000 tonnes of coal. The use of waste-derived fuels has the added benefit that it reduces overall emissions from cement kilns,” Mr Gilbert concluded.

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**Notes to editors:**

1. Wastes used in the cement industry include substitute liquid fuels from the residues of solvent recycling; scrap tyres not usable in other ways; paper and plastic wastes not able to be recycled viably; waste oils; waste wood; sewage sludge; meat and bone meal; paper ash; pulverised fuel ash and ground granulated blast furnace slag from power & steel industries
2. Energy recovery takes place at very high temperatures and no ash is left for subsequent disposal
3. The British Cement Association (BCA) is the trade and research organisation that represents the interests of the United Kingdom's cement industry in its relations with Her Majesty's Government, the European Union and relevant organisations in the United Kingdom. The members of the BCA (Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, Lafarge Cement UK and Rugby Cement) are the major domestic manufacturers of Portland cement producing over 90% of the cement sold in the UK.

The cement industry has an annual turnover of £750 million and is a major supplier to the construction industry. It employs around 3,500 people directly with a further 15,000 jobs depending upon its operations.