

MINES SERVICE
www.moa.gov.cy/mines

1. INTRODUCTION

The Mines Service is the competent authority of the administration of the Mines and Quarries Law and Regulation and the Explosive Substances Law and Regulation.

2. MINING AND QUARRYING

The mining industry has been on the decline (practically non - existent) for the last four decades. The only mining activity is the Skouriotissa copper mine where by the application of the leaching - SX - EW method is succeeded the production of high purity copper cathodes (99.999%). The holder of Skouriotissa copper mine in 2015 has begun preparatory mining works to Apliki area, located near Kalopanagiotis in the Nicosia district. Further more a study has been completed on the gold-silver production by the cyanidation method of mined auriferous reserves of Skouriotissa mine and by the mid-2017 a relevant metallurgical plant has started operation. Concerning the prospecting of metals, a great interest was shown for copper and precious metals, especially gold.

There is extensive quarrying of rocks and industrial minerals in Cyprus. There are about 133 quarries producing of various materials. They produce for local use havara, sand and gravel, aggregates (from limestone and diabase) building stone, limestone, clay, gypsum and for export building stone, gypsum, bentonite, umber and ochre. There is also local production and exports of quick and hydrated lime, portland and other types of cement and gypsum plasters. There is also great interest for the prospecting of quarry materials and industrial minerals.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES - HEALTH AND SAFETY

The mining and quarrying operations have the obligation to submit every five years to the Mines Service, renewed environmental study taking into consideration the new conditions of the exploitation area. This was adopted in the national legislation according to the Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the management of waste from extractive industries. The operations have to be supervised by a Mining Engineer.

A great share of Mines Service personnel time is spent for inspection of the working conditions (safety and health) in mines and quarries and related installations. The effort is to eliminate accidents and occupational diseases. The people working in mining and quarrying are examined every two years by the Pneumoconiosis Medical Board.

4. EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCES AND HUNTING AMMUNITION

The Head of the Mines Service is also the Explosives Substances Inspector and has the control of the import, storage, sale and use of the explosive substances and hunting ammunition.

5. CYPRUS STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR AGGREGATES

From 1/5/2004 the Ministry of Interior is the Competent Authority for checking the quality of the produced aggregates.

6. ECONOMICS

The total exports in 2017 for metals, ores and industrial minerals amounted about €20.528.769 (cement and clinker not included) compared with €20.808.850 in 2016.

The total income of Mines Service in 2017 for rents, fees and royalties was €5.240.265. The amount of €2.969.254 was granted to the Communities, affected from the mines and quarries operation, in order to use it for the development of their own program.