

Rock Faces

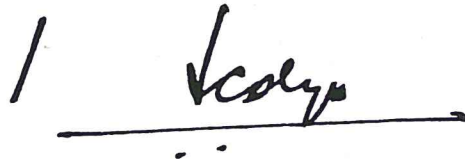
Building (Planning) Regulations 27 and 47

Persons responsible for the formation of rock faces will rarely be able to see the full extent of the stability problem until excavation is nearly complete. Only then will the intensity and orientation of joints and other planes of weakness in the rock be revealed. It is, therefore, frequently necessary to make assumptions about the jointing pattern and other characteristics in order to evaluate the overall factor of safety of the rock slope and to make provision for local support of the final face and, as appropriate, general support of the rock slope. These assumptions and the basis for them must be clearly and fully stated on the site formation plans submitted for approval.

2. Such plans should also contain notes on observance of the following standard of practice :

- (a) Any blasting to be carried out shall be controlled to avoid damage to the final face. Pre-split or smooth-face methods shall be used to form the final face in suitable geological conditions;
- (b) Immediately after excavation, the intended final face shall be scaled by removing loose material and shall be surveyed by an engineer skilled in the design and construction of rock faces. Results of the survey shall be used in the design and detailing of support measures, rockfall control measures and drainage measures; and
- (c) Large-scale engineering geological drawings (marked-up transparent overlays to photographs or otherwise), showing all salient rock features together with the dimensioned location, dimensioned extent and details of all support and drainage measures, will be submitted for the approval of the Building Authority. Documentation will also be required on --
 - (i) calculations to justify the design of all support measures and to confirm overall stability; and
 - (ii) photographs of the scaled rock face, where physically possible.

3. For the purposes of Building (Planning) Regulation 47, only a rock face having no unfavourably oriented joints or other discontinuities or other defects will be regarded as a "massive rock face". Where unfavourably oriented joints, other discontinuities or other defects are likely to exist, the provisions of Building (Planning) Regulation 27 will apply.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen C P Lai YU', is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature is a single vertical stroke.

(Helen C P Lai YU)
Building Authority

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Index under : Blasting

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