

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. Hence it will frequently be necessary to make assumptions about the jointing pattern, etc. 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, if needed, general support of the rock slope. These assumptions and the evidence upon which they are based must be clearly and fully stated on the site formation plans submitted for approval.

2. The plans submitted for approval should also contain notes to indicate that the following standard of practice will be adhered to:

- (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 sealed, by removing loose material, and will be surveyed by an engineer skilled in the design and construction of rock faces for the purpose of designing and detailing support measures, rockfall control measures, and drainage measures.
- (c) Large-scale engineering geological drawings (marked-up) transparent overlays to photographs or otherwise) showing all salient rock features and the dimensioned location and dimensioned extent, and details of all support and drainage measures, will be submitted for the approval of the Building Authority. The following supporting documentation will also be submitted; calculations to justify the design of all support measures and to confirm overall stability, and 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 or other discontinuities or other defects are likely to exist the provisions of Building (Planning) Regulation 27 will be applied.



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Building Authority.

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