

PRIDE in INDUSTRY



In a salute to Barbados' 50th anniversary of Independence, Arawak Cement, a leading Barbadian manufacturer for over three decades takes you on the inside of its business with a series of features on various aspects of an institution that has helped to build this nation.

BUILDING A STRONGER SAFETY CULTURE

Arawak Cement - Aiming for Zero

"Upward and onward we shall go, inspired, exulting, free..."

Echoing the words of Barbados' National Anthem, Arawak Cement has raised the bar in terms of safety with a target of "ZERO", that is, zero accidents, zero incidents and thus, zero injuries. Sound audits are done annually at Arawak to determine areas where sound levels are above the safe limit. The company has completed a full evaluation of all its circuits and job sites based on established safety standards for similar industries.

LEADING THE WAY IN SAFETY WEAR

In raising the bar on safety, Arawak has introduced the first full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)-compliant uniform on the island. The new uniforms are the latest design in safety wear for an industrial environment and consist of a 100% cotton long-sleeve shirt and denim pants, adorned with reflective strips, to ensure visibility at night. Arawak's pledge of excellence in safety also extends to the use of other PPE equipment including tools such as: safety glasses, safety steel tip boots, helmets, ear plugs and respiratory protection, where needed.



Arawak employees, including Environmental and Safety Specialist, Seema Juman (centre) wearing the first full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) compliant uniform on the island.

LOTO AT ARAWAK:

Arawak recently re-implemented its Lock-Out Tag-Out (LOTO) programme where every employee is required to walk with a lock when entering the Operations section of the plant. In this way, anyone working on equipment, must first attach their lock to the respective breaker panel to avoid someone else unknowingly starting up the equipment while it is being worked on.

SAFETY TRAINING FOR ALL EMPLOYEES:

All of Arawak's 160 employees as well as contractors are trained in safety procedures. This year, there has been re-training for all staff on the wearing of PPE, hearing protection, the LOTO programme, glove safety and traffic control. The company has also implemented the Job Safety Assessment (JSA), which calls for all supervisors to assess the safety conditions of a job prior to the start, ensuring that all PPE, instructions and tools are in place for safe execution. The JSA is documented on a form that is audited by the Safety and Environment Specialist. Continuously reviewing and adhering to good safety practices and procedures, Arawak will, by the end of 2016, conduct re-training on several areas including "fall protection", respiratory protection, electrical safety and ergonomic safety.



"Building a Stronger Barbados"

ISO 9001:2008 (Quality Management System) certified.