

## Small footprint leaps ahead

**A**FRISAM HAS EXTENDED its CO<sub>2</sub> measurement to all of its aggregate and ready-mixed concrete and aggregate operations. This follows on the company's industry-first CO<sub>2</sub> rating system, which indicates the carbon footprint of each of its cement products relative to the world average.

"We believe that as the leading construction materials supplier in Southern Africa, it was not only a natural progression from measuring CO<sub>2</sub> in cement, but it is a moral obligation too. We do not consider ourselves exclusive owners of the methodology, and are presenting the model to aggregate and sand producers and various other bodies in the industry, such as the Institute for Quarrying and SA Ready-Mix Association, encouraging others to come on board. Our consultants are currently developing a simple and cost-effective programme suitable for smaller

competitors," explains Alan Cluett, the company's environmental manager.

Nor is the company sitting on its laurels. "We are constantly improving and refining the system, including other aspects such as the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> absorption in different biomes in areas which are disturbed by our operations and subsequently rehabilitated. These, and other considerations, will enable us to remain at the forefront of the industry in ensuring the lowest CO<sub>2</sub> footprint possible."

Consultants were commissioned to develop a methodology to calculate the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and reports are now being returned from all AfriSam's aggregate and ready-mix operations. "Not only is diesel considered, but all greenhouse gas equivalents," Cluett points out. "This includes gasses generated from explosives, emissions from sewage, those associated with water pumping as well as from electricity – even welding gasses and

gasses used for cooking purposes on site. All costs associated with transport of products are also factored in."

AfriSam was the first cement manufacturer in South Africa to measure its carbon footprint and it has now become arguably the first in the world to provide this measurement across all its activities: Cement, aggregate and ready-mix. **as**

**BELOW** An AfriSam ready-mix vehicle

