

SURFACE BLASTER (COAL)

PHOTO ID REQUIRED

Article 3 of the **Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia** establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.2-515 through §45.2-534, in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: **Surface Blaster (Coal)*

This certification authorizes the holder to perform blasting operations and to record blasting examination information concerning blasting operations at surface mines.

NOTE: This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification.

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Prior to making application, affidavit and training modules must be completed. Training modules and affidavit can be accessed on the DMME Website.**
- Most recent Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms clearance.
- Application (BCME-1) and \$40.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
 - **Note:** Classes are limited to 20 people and tend to fill quickly. Application fees are due no later than 5 working days prior to the examination, but this will not guarantee that an opening will be available.
- One year blasting experience properly notarized (Form DM-BCME-2) on a surface coal mine under the direction of a certified surface blaster or related work experience approved by the Chief of the Division of Mines. **NOTE: Experience must be submitted within 5 years of passing the examination. After 5 years records are destroyed. Must reapply if future certification is desired.**
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)
- Hold a General Miner Certification

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 85% on each element of the examination

<u>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</u>	<u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</u>
▪ Mined Land Reclamation Rules & Regs. (DMLR) (MR)	25
▪ Blasting Practices (BP)	20
▪ Electric Blasting (EB)	20
▪ Explosive Products (EP)	20
▪ Explosive Safety Procedures (ES)	40
▪ Rules & Regulations (DM) (RR)	20
▪ Surface Blasting Record Practical (BR)	

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Title 30 CFR (Included in study guide)
- Coal Mine Laws of Virginia (\$25.00)
- BCME Requirements (No Charge)
- Blaster Training Module CD (\$1.00)
 - also available on Web
- Surface Blasters Study Guide (\$14.00)
- DMLR Rules & Regulations (Included in study guide)
- First Aid for Miners Study Guide (\$15.00)

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Virginia Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, (276) 523-8100.

***5 year DMLR recertification required**