

***SURFACE FOREMAN (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 Foreman (Coal)***

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Perform all surface mine foreman and/or examiner duties required by State and Federal Laws and Code
- Record the findings of on-shift examinations

**APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- 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.
- 23 years of age
- Five years of mining experience at least two years experience must be at a surface mine  
**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.**
- Four year Mining Engineering Degree shall suffice for three years of the five years experience (copy of degree required) (NOTE: The additional two years required must be at a surface mine).
- Mine Technology Degree shall suffice for two years of the five years experience (copy of degree required) (NOTE: At least two of the remaining years experience must be at a surface mine).
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)
- Hold a General Miner Surface Certification and Gas Detection as part of this certification (A card will be issued)
- Hold an Advanced First Aid Certification issued by the Division of Mines or a certification by EMT or First Responder issued by the Virginia Department of Health.  
**NOTE: Degree and certificate cannot be combined for total experience. Can only use either a degree or certificate.**

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

<b><u>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</u></b>	<b><u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</u></b>
▪ Electrical & Equipment (EE)	20
▪ Explosives (EX)	20
▪ Mine Foremanship (MF)	25
▪ General Mine Practices (MP)	50
▪ Federal Regulations (FR)	20
▪ Virginia Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Regulations (RL)	20
▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration	
▪ Records - Preshift/Onshift (PO)	
▪ Ground Control/Red Zone Practical	

**RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:**

- Title 30 CFR Parts 48, 51, 77 (No charge)
- Surface Foreman Guide & Surface Rules & Regs. (\$12.00)
- VA Ground Control Plan/Red Zones (Included in study guide)
- VA Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Regs. – DMLR (Included in study guide)
- BCME Requirements (No Charge)
- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia (\$25.00)
- 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.**

**\*4 hours biannual continuing education required to update certification.**