



**DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

SURFACE BLASTER

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 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 (VR 480-04-2), which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: **Surface Blaster*

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:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$10.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- One year blasting experience on a surface mine under the direction of a certified surface blaster or appropriately related work experience approved by the Chief of the Division of Mines
- Current first aid training (MSHA first aid 5000-23 acceptable)

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

ELEMENTS OF EXAM	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
▪ Mined Land Reclamation Rules & Regs. (DMLR) (MR)	20
▪ Blasting Practices (BP)	20
▪ Electric Blasting (EB)	20
▪ Explosive Products (EP)	20
▪ Explosive Safety Procedures (ES)	20
▪ Rules & Regulations (DM) (RR)	20
▪ First Aid (MM)	20

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Title 30 CFR | ■ Surface Blasters Study Guide |
| ■ Mining Laws of Virginia | ■ DMLR Rules & Regulations |
| ■ BCME Requirements | ■ MSHA (Basic First Aid) Manual 3 |

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy’s Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.

***5 year DMLR recertification required**