



**PHOTO ID REQUIRED**

***SURFACE BLASTER –  
DIVISION OF MINERAL MINING TO DIVISION OF MINES  
RECIPROCAL REQUIREMENTS***

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 – Virginia Energy Mineral Mining Reciprocity – Renewal must be in accordance with BCME Requirements***

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

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

**APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Application (DM-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 of blasting experience (Form DM-BCME-2) on a surface coal mine under the direction of a certified surface blaster or appropriately 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.**
- Hold a General Miner Certification – surface coal
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)
- Notification from DMM verifying certification is in good standing, verifying 85% on all sections of the DMM exam.
- **Reciprocity can only be used one time to achieve certification**

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

**ELEMENTS OF EXAM**

**NUMBER OF QUESTIONS**

Must take the following sections of the Surface Blasters exam.

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|---|----|
| ▪ Rules and Regulations (DM)(RR)          | 20 |
| ▪ Mined Land Reclamation                  | 20 |
| ▪ Surface Blasting Records Practical (BR) |    |

**RECOMMENDED REFERNECE/STUDY MATERIALS:**

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| ■ Title 30 CFR (Included in study guide) | ■ Surface Blasters Study Guide (\$14.00)             |
| ■ Coal Mine Laws of Virginia (\$25.00)   | ■ DMLR Rules & Regulations (Included in study guide) |
| ■ BCME Requirements (No Charge)          | ■ First Aid for Miners Study Guide (\$15.00)         |

\*5 year DMLR recertification required