



UNDERGROUND SHOT FIRER (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: **Underground Shot Firer (Coal)*

This certification authorizes the holder to perform blasting operations, pre-blasting and post-blasting examinations, and handle corrective measures in misfired shots in underground coal mines.

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

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.
- Two years coal mining experience underground,
 - one year of the two years shall be handling and using explosives underground under the direction of a certified underground shot firer or;
 - completion of a 24 hour shot firer class approved by the Chief and taught by a Virginia Energy approved shot firer instructor 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
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)

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

<u>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</u>	<u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</u>
▪ Principles of Blasting (PB)	20
▪ Surface Storage (SS)	20
▪ Underground Storage (US)	20
▪ Underground Transportation (UT)	20
▪ Federal Regulations (FR)	20
▪ Underground Blasting (UB)	
▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration	

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Title 30 CFR (Included in study guide)
- Mining Laws of Virginia (\$25.00)
- BCME Requirements (No charge)
- Underground Shot Firer Study Guide (\$5.00)
- First Aid for Miners Study Guide (\$15.00)

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

*** Continuing education required. See BCME Requirements. (Effective August 25, 2004)**