



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

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 §45.1-161.24 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, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: *Surface Blaster – DMME Division of 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
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Must take the following sections of the DMME Division of Mines Surface Blasters exam.

▪ Rules and Regulations (DM)(RR)	20
▪ Mined Land Reclamation	20
▪ First Aid	25
▪ 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 (\$5.50) | ■ DMLR Rules & Regulations (Included in study guide) |
| ■ BCME Requirements (No Charge) | ■ First Aid for Miners Study Guide (\$9.00) |

*5 year DMLR recertification required