



DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dm/default.htm>

FIRST CLASS MINE 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 §45.1-161.24 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: **First Class Mine Foreman (COAL)*

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Perform all duties required by State and Federal laws and codes as certified mine foreman/examiner
- Record findings on pre-shift, on-shift and weekly examinations

NOTE:

- This certification may be used to perform pre/shift – on/shift examinations at shaft/slope locations.

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 coal mining experience, three of which shall be underground. **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.**
- Three years credit will be granted for Mining Engineering Degree from an approved four year college (copy of degree required) or two years credit for a degree in Mining Technology (certificate required) (NOTE: at least two of the remaining years' experience must be underground mining experience).
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)
- Hold a General Miner Certification as part of this certification (A card will be issued)

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

ELEMENTS OF EXAM	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
▪ Dust (DU)	20
▪ Electrical (EL)	20
▪ Explosives (EX)	20
▪ First Aid (FA)	25
▪ Fires and Explosions (FX)	25
▪ Haulage (HA)	20
▪ Mine Gases (MG)	20
▪ Mining Laws (ML)	50
▪ Ventilation (VE)	25
▪ Federal Regulations (FR)	25
▪ <u>Records</u>	
Pre-shift/On-shift (PO)	
Weekly Examination (WE)	
Practical Exercises (PS)	
- Anemometer	
▪ Map - ventilated per instructions (MA)	
▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration	

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Title 30 CFR Parts 48, 70, 75 (Included in study guide)
- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia (\$5.50)
- BCME Requirements (No Charge)
- Practical Map (No charge) and Records (Included in study guide)
- First Class Mine Foreman Study Guide (\$30.00)
- First Aid For Miners Study Guide (\$9.00)
- Responding to a Mine Emergency (\$7.50)

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 Lebanon Field Office (276) 415-9650.

***4 hours of biannual continuing education required to update this certification.**

***Contact Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) 276-523-2400 for class information.**