



DIVISION OF MINES  
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dm/default.htm>

***MINE INSPECTOR (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: *\*Mine Inspector***

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Qualify for Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Division of Mines Inspector positions
- Conduct safety and health inspections at underground and surface coal mine sites when employed by the Division

**NOTE:**

- This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification. Issued only if employed by the Division of Mines.

**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.
- Hold a valid First Class Mine Foreman Certification in Virginia
- Five years underground coal mining experience. **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 a degree in mining engineering from an approved four-year college (copy of degree required)
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)

**THIS CERTIFICATION IS CRITERIA FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DIVISION OF MINES WHEN APPLYING FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS.**

**EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** A score of 80% on each element of the examination.

<b>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</b>	<b>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</b>
▪ Fires and Explosions (FX)	20
▪ First Aid (FA)	25
▪ Explosives (EX)	20
▪ Electricity (EC)	20
▪ Mine Gases (MG)	20
▪ Mining Laws (ML)	50
▪ Ventilation (VE)	20
▪ Federal Regulations	25
▪ Gas Detection – practical demonstration	
▪ <u>Records</u>	
Pre-shift/On-shift (PO)	
Weekly Examination (WE)	
▪ Map – ventilated per instructions (MA)	
▪ Anemometer	

**RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:**

- Title 30 CFR Part 75, 77 (Included in study guide)
- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia (\$5.50)
- BCME Requirements (No Charge)
- Practical 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 biannual First Class Mine Foreman Continuing Education will update this certification.**