



FIRST CLASS SHAFT OR SLOPE FOREMAN

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 Shaft or Slope Foreman*

This certification authorizes a miner to:

- Perform duties as a certified shaft or slope foreman/examiner at shaft or slope operations
- Conduct and record findings on pre-shift, on-shift and weekly examinations

NOTE:

- This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification. First Class Mine Foreman may conduct required 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.
- Five years mining experience at a shaft or slope 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.**
- Three years credit will be granted for mining engineering degree from an approved four year college or two years credit for a degree in mining technology
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)

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

| <u>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</u> | <u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ Explosives (EX) | 20 |
| ▪ First Aid (FA) | 25 |
| ▪ Federal Regulations (FR) | 20 |
| ▪ Hoisting (HT) | 20 |
| ▪ Mine Gases (MG) | 20 |
| ▪ Mining Laws (ML) | 20 |
| ▪ Records – Practical – Pre-shift/On-shift (PO) | |
| ▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration | |

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia (\$5.50)
- BCME Requirements (No charge)
- Title 30 CFR Parts 50, 70, 75, 77 (Included in study guide)
- First Class Mine Foreman Study Guide (\$30.00)
- First Aid For Miners Study Guide (\$9.00)

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.