



## **TOP PERSON (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: *Top Person (Coal)***

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Stay at the top of shaft collars, make preparations for miners entering the shaft and act as a communications link between employees in the shaft and hoist/crane operators

**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.
- One year of practical coal mining experience with at least 30 days under the direction of a certified top person or appropriately related work experience approved by the Chief of the Division of Mines
- Hold a General Miner Certification. **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.**
- 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

<b>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</b>	<b>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</b>
▪ First Aid (FA)	25
▪ Top Person (TP)	40
▪ Combustible Materials	
▪ Communication	
▪ Duties	
▪ Equipment	
▪ General Requirements	
▪ Federal Regulations (FR)	20
▪ Hoisting (HT)	20
▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration	

**RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:**

- Title 30 CFR Parts 50, 71, 75, 77 (Included in study guide)
- Top Person Study Guide (\$5.00)
- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia (\$5.50)
- First Aid for Miners Study Guide (\$9.00)
- BCME Requirements (No Charge)

**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.**