



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 §45.2-515 through §45.2-534, 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)	20
▪ 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 (\$25.00)
- 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 (\$15.00)

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Virginia Energy’s Big Stone Gap Office, (276) 523-8100.