Virginia Department of Fire Programs

State Fire Marshal's Office, Explosives Section

Application for a Background Clearance Card (BCC)

Application for Certification as a Blaster

Pursuant to § 27-97.2 of the Code of Virginia any person, as an individual or as a representative of a company, who applies for a permit to manufacture, store, use, handle or sell explosives or blasting agents, or applies to become certified as a Blaster, is required to undergo a background investigation. The background investigation requires the applicant to submit fingerprints and personal descriptive information on forms provided by the department. In turn, the fingerprints and personal information will be forwarded through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining a national criminal history record check on the applicant.

Because the process to obtain certification as a Blaster or Background Clearance Card (BCC) involves a fingerprint card, applications **cannot** be downloaded from an internet site or be obtained as an email attachment. Please call the State Fire Marshal's Office at 804-371-0220 to request either an application for certification as a Blaster or for a BCC to be mailed to you. Please indicate if you're seeking certification so we can include certification exam information.

Once the application is received by the SFMO, please allow 45 days to process the application and fingerprint card. Once submitted, if you have not received a certification card, a BCC, or notification of denial within 45 days of the submittal, you can call 804-371-0220 to inquire on the status of the application.