



**DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

QUALIFIED GAS DETECTION

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 (VR 480-04-2), which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: *Qualified Gas Detection*

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Perform tests for methane gas as required by §45.161-231B and by similar provisions of Title 30 CFR for underground and surface areas of coal mines.

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1)
- Demonstrate knowledge of mine gases and the ability to detect methane with an approved methane detector. This training session and demonstration is conducted by a DM representative.
- A pass/fail grade is given by the DM observer
- This training may be received during scheduled examination dates at the DM Big Stone Gap Office or the Keen Mountain Field Office.

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia
- Gas Detection Handbook
- Mine Gases Packet
- Title 30 CFR Part 75, 77

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 Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.