

<b>DIVISION OF MINES GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF REGULATORY STANDARDS MANUAL</b>	
<b>COAL MINE SAFETY ACT</b>	<b>CHAPTER 14.3</b>
<b>ARTICLE 5</b>	<b>EXPLOSIVES AND BLASTING</b>
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**Section 45.1-161.129.**

**Blasting Practices; Penalty**

**Blasting Practices Approved by the Chief:**

The MSA requires the mine operator to secure approval from the Chief prior to performing the following blasting practices:

- The use of non-permissible explosives in shaft and slope sinking requires approval in the development plan required by 45.1-161.250 B.
- The use of a non-permissible shot-firing unit underground.
- The use of stemming devices other than incombustible material.
- Use of charges exceeding three pounds per hole.
- Any solid shooting.
- Adobe (mudcaps) or other open, unconfined shot.
- Firing shots from a properly installed and protected blasting circuit.

The mine inspector must determine that the operator has an approved plan for each of the above listed practices. Typically, the operator will have a plan approved by the Chief for shooting on the solid, and for use of non-permissible shot firing units. Should there be indications of any of the other blasting practices requiring approval being planned or performed at the mine, the inspector should review and where necessary apply enforcement action.

The use of explosive products approved for unconfined detonation by MSHA and the Chief do not require further approval.

Whenever feasible during inspection activities, the inspector should monitor the transportation, handling, loading and detonation practices being employed at the mine.

