



**FIRST CLASS MINE 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 §45.1-161.24 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: *\*First Class Mine Foreman***

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Perform all duties required by State and Federal laws and codes as certified mine foreman/examiner
- Record findings on pre-shift, on-shift and weekly examinations

**NOTE:**

- This certification may be used to perform pre/shift – on/shift examinations at shaft/slope locations.

**APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Application (BCME-1) and \$40.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- 23 years of age
- Five years mining experience, three of which shall be underground
- 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 Inexperience Training acceptable)
- Hold a General Miner Certification as part of this certification (A card will be issued)

**EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** A score of 85% on each element of the examination

<b><u>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</u></b>	<b><u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</u></b>
▪ Dust (DU)	20
▪ Electrical (EL)	20
▪ Explosives (EX)	20
▪ First Aid (FA)	20
▪ Fires and Explosions (FX)	20
▪ Haulage (HA)	20
▪ Mine Gases (MG)	20
▪ Mining Laws (ML)	50
▪ Ventilation (VE)	20
▪ Federal Regulations (FR)	20

- Records  
Pre-shift/On-shift (PO)  
Weekly Examination (WE)  
Practical Exercises (PS)
  - Ventilation
  - Roof Control
  - Emergency Response
- Map - ventilated per instructions (MA)
- Gas Detection - practical demonstration

**RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:**

- Title 30 CFR Parts 48, 70, 75
- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia
- BCME Requirements
- Practical Map and Records
- First Class Mine Foreman Study Guide
- First Aid For Miners Study Guide
- Mine Gases Packet

**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.**

**\*4 hours of biannual continuing education required to update this certification.**

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