

<u>DIVISION OF MINES GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF REGULATORY STANDARDS MANUAL</u>	
COAL MINE SAFETY ACT	CHAPTER 14.2
ARTICLE 2	CHIEF, DIRECTOR AND MINE INSPECTORS
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Section 45.1-161.23.

Technical Specialist

The Director appoints technical specialists who have the qualifications of mine inspectors plus specialized technical competence in areas of roof control, electricity, ventilation and other mine specialties. Technical specialists are not assigned regular inspection activities at mining operations. Their duties and responsibilities are focused toward advising and assisting other Department personnel and mining operators and their employees. Also, their knowledge, skills and abilities are employed during emergency response activities and for training of personnel in subjects related to their area of expertise.

Technical specialists are expected to provide assistance to mine operators in complying with state and federal mining laws, rules and regulations, and should address with the operator or his agent deficiencies in mine compliance when observed during mine site visits. Technical specialists are required to issue a closure order in cases of an identified imminent danger, and should promptly communicate such an occurrence to the inspector supervisor responsible for the mine.

Technical specialists are expected to work closely with MSHA, DGO, DMLR, DMM and other agencies in assisting within their areas of expertise. Their work schedules and activities require diverse and flexible scheduling and efforts, which differ from that of the mine inspector.