



DIVISION OF MINES  
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS  
<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dm/default.htm>

## **GENERAL COAL MINER**

### **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: *\*General Coal Miner***

This certification authorizes an individual not previously employed in the Commonwealth as a coal miner to work at underground and surface coal mines.

#### **APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Application (BCME-1) and \$20.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- Submit Verification of Training Form (BCME-3) signed by instructor and applicant. This form verifies that training in first aid (2 hours) or Mining Laws of Virginia has been received (2 hour equivalent of first aid training).
- Gas detection required for underground certification
- One year mining work experience, signed by company official properly notarized and a current copy of MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable

#### **RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:**

- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia
- BCME Requirements
- First Aid for Miners Study Guide
- General Coal Miner Study materials (handed out in class) (Surface or Underground)

**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.**

\*DM will also offer General Miner and gas detection training on Wednesdays at 8:00am at both the Big Stone Gap and Keen Mountain locations. General Miner applicants will submit an application, \$20.00 fee, and verification of current first aid training at this training.