



STATE OF ALABAMA

SURFACE MINING COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 2390 - JASPER, ALABAMA 35502-2390
(205) 221-4130 • FAX: (205) 221-5077

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR BLASTER CERTIFICATION / RENEWAL

(Please read carefully before filling out application) *

Responsibilities of a Certified Blaster:

Alabama law and ASMC regulations require that surface coal mine blasting operations be conducted by a Blaster-in-Charge who is an ASMC Certified Blaster. Applicants should be aware of the ethical and legal responsibilities and liabilities to which Certified Blasters are subject.

Requirements for certification:

Requirements for certification include (1) completing a state approved blaster's training course, (2) passing a comprehensive examination, and (3) having at least one year's creditable blasting experience. These requirements may be met by certification from an agency of another state or federal agency having equal certification standards. Evidence of meeting these requirements must be submitted with the application. Positive identification is required, including use of an applicant's Social Security number and issuance of a photo ID that must be available on the job for inspection.

In addition, there are federal laws regulating the use, transportation and possession of explosives and explosive materials. ASMC regulations require compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations in the use of explosives. Prohibition from actual or constructive possession of explosives (as defined by federal law) is incompatible with the responsibilities of a Certified Blaster. Therefore, persons prohibited by federal law from possession of explosives are not eligible for ASMC Blaster Certification.

In applying for certification or renewal, applicants should be aware that they will be subjected to background checks by state and federal law enforcement agencies and relevant findings submitted to the ASMC.

Under Education, be sure to include the course you are claiming for qualification, even if you have just completed it and taken the exam. In describing blasting experience on the job, please be specific as to your duties and level of responsibility. It should be clear that the applicant meets the minimum experience requirement. Be aware that the experience claimed must be verified in writing by the employer. There is provision for reciprocity with states having equivalent requirements.

Certification renewal requirements:

Certification is for a period of three years, at which time it may be renewed under the following two conditions (as long as the renewal applicant is not otherwise disqualified and remains in good standing with the ASMC): (1) The renewal applicant can demonstrate at least one year of creditable blasting experience in the surface coal mining industry during the previous certification period, and (2) the renewal applicant can demonstrate at least 12 contact hours of approved blasting continuing education during the previous certification period, or retakes and passes the exam.

Please fill out the application legibly, in ink. Illegible applications, and incomplete applications will not be processed.

* See fee schedule on the reverse side.

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Certification Fee – Each applicant for blaster certification shall pay a non-refundable application fee of \$100.00 prior to sitting for the comprehensive written examination.

Reciprocity Fee – A non-refundable application fee of \$50.00 shall accompany any application for certification as a certified blaster through reciprocity.

Renewal Fee – Each applicant for renewal of certification as a certified blaster shall submit the required application form along with a non-refundable fee of \$50.00.

Effective 05/24/11