

Effective July 28, 1986

Final Rule
SMC/UMC 850

SMC/UMC 850 - Requirements for Blaster Certification at Coal Mines.

SMC/UMC 850.5 Blaster - Defined.

The term "blaster" as used in this section shall mean a person who is directly responsible for the use of explosives in connection with surface blasting operations incident to underground coal mining activities or surface coal mining activities, and who holds a valid certificate issued by the Utah Industrial Commission ("U.I.C.") in accordance with the statutes and regulations administered by the U.I.C. governing training, examination, and certification of persons responsible for the use of explosives in connection with surface blasting operations incident to underground coal mining activities.

Any person holding a valid certification as a shotfirer issued by the U.I.C. shall be deemed certified as a blaster for purposes of this definition, provided all recertification requirements are met within twelve (12) months of the effective date of these rules (SMC/UMC 850.5 et seq.).

SMC/UMC 850.13 Training.

(a) To receive certification, a blaster shall receive training from a program approved by the Utah Industrial Commission and the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

(b) Training includes, but is not limited to, the technical aspects of blasting operations, and state and federal laws governing the storage, transportation, and use of explosives. Blasting courses shall provide training and discuss practical applications of explosives.

(c) Persons who are not certified and who are assigned to a blasting crew or assist in the use of explosives shall receive direction and on-the-job training from a blaster.

(d) Training shall include course work in, and discuss the practical application of:

1. Explosives, including:

(i) Selection of the type of explosive to be used,

(ii) Determination of the properties of explosives which will produce desired results at an acceptable level of risk, and

(iii) Handling, transportation, and storage.

2. Blast designs, including:

(i) Geologic and topographic considerations,

(ii) Design of a blast hole, with critical dimensions,

(iii) Pattern design, field layout, and timing of blast holes,

(iv) Field applications: incident to underground coal mining activities or surface coal mining activities, and who holds a valid

3. Loading blast holes, including priming and boosting.

4. Initiation systems and blasting machines.

5. Blasting vibrations, airblasts and flyrock, including:

(i) Monitoring techniques, and

(ii) Methods to control adverse effects.

6. Secondary blasting applications.

7. Current federal and state rules applicable to the use of explosives.

8. Blast records.

9. Schedules.

10. Preblasting surveys, including:

(i) Availability,

(ii) Coverage, and

(iii) Use of in-blast design.

11. Blast-plan requirements.

12. Certification and training.

13. Signs, warning signals, and site control.

14. Unpredictable hazards, including:

(i) Lightning, or the presence of explosives which will produce desired results at an acceptable level of risk, and

(ii) Stray currents,

(iii) Radio waves, and

(iv) Misfires.

SMC/UMC 850.14 Examinations

(a) Candidates for blasting certification shall be approved by a board of examiners and shall meet the following qualifications:

(1) Have two years practical experience in blasting prior to taking the examination,

(2) Take an approved blasting training course,

(3) Pass the written and oral examination with scores of eighty (80) percent or higher.

(b) Examination shall include, at a minimum, the topics set forth in Section SMC/UMC 850.13.

SMC/UMC 850.15 Certification.

(a) Upon successful completion of the training and examination process identified in SMC and UMC 850.13 and 850.14, the candidate for blasting certification shall be awarded a certificate for one (1) year from the date of issuance.

(b) Blasting certificates may be renewed by attending an eight-hour annual refresher course approved by the U.I.C.

(c) Refresher courses shall review the topics identified in initial training SMC and UMC 850.13.

SMC/UMC 850.16 Suspension and Revocation of Certification.

(a) The U.I.C., when practicable, following written notice and opportunity for hearing and upon a findings of willful conduct by the Board of Examiners, shall suspend or revoke the blaster's certification during the term of the certification or take other necessary action for any of the following reasons:

(1) Noncompliance with any blasting-related order issued by the U.I.C.,