

Foreword

The attached Standard Operating Procedure is the internal policy of the Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality covering the topic of testing to certify blasters and issuance of blaster certificates. Staff shall make no significant deviations from this policy without the prior approval of the District Supervisor and the Administrator.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2000

Richard A. Chancellor
Administrator
Land Quality Division

COAL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE NO. 6.1

Land Quality Division

**SUBJECT: Procedures for Testing to Certify Blasters and Issuance of
Blaster's Certificates**

I. Introduction

- A. LQD and the State Inspector of Mines will work together to certify blasters at surface coal mines in Wyoming.

II. Training and Testing

- A. LQD will set up training programs for people asking to become certified blasters, and review and approve comparable training programs.
- B. Testing for blaster certification will be done by LQD's Blasting Engineer following an initial 24 hours of training.

III. Qualifications

- A. To qualify for certification, an individual must provide the LQD with notarized verification of at least two years of blasting experience. At least one of those years of experience must include shot design, loading of holes, and tying in shots. At least six months of this experience must be hands-on experience on the pattern before a blaster can be eligible to become certified.

IV. Certification Procedures

- A. The Blasting Engineer will grade the tests and provide the Support Group Secretary with a list of those present passing the test.
- B. The Support Group Secretary will make out certificates for those individuals passing the test and forward the certificates to the Administrator of LQD and the Director of DEQ for their signatures.
- C. After the Administrator and Director sign the certificates, they are forwarded to the State Inspector of Mines for his signature.
- D. The State Inspector of Mines will forward the completed certificates to the Blasting Engineer.
- E. The Blasting Engineer will send the certificates to the individuals and/or the companies they work for.
- F. The Blasting Engineer will notify in writing, those individuals who failed the test.

V. Certification Renewal

Upon application to LQD and submittal of verification of training, certificates will be renewed if the blaster has completed at least 24 hours of LQD approved blasting related training in the five year period prior to expiration of the certificate (this does not include the initial 24 hour training session).

VI. Records Management

The Blasting Engineer will forward copies of all certificates and correspondence to the Support Group Secretary who will maintain all the files and records associated with Blaster's Certification for surface coal mining.