

## Ohio Mine Safety Certification Testing & Training Frequently Asked Questions

### CERTIFICATION TESTING

#### What certifications does the Division issue?

The Division issues certificates for the following certifications:

- Mine Foreman Gaseous Mine (5 yr.)
- Foreman Gaseous Mine (3 yr.)
- Salt Foreman Underground (3 yr., Mine Foreman 5 yr.)
- Salt Foreman Surface
- Stone Foreman Underground (3 yr., Mine Foreman 5 yr.)
- Preparation Plant Tipple Foreman
- Surface Coal & Auger Foreman/Mine Foreman
- Mine Electrician (Surface & Underground) – Required at surface coal mines and underground coal mines, but NOT in industrial minerals mines
- Quarry Mine Foreman (Surface IM) – There is no ‘Foreman’ category for Surface IM; all are ‘Mine Foreman’ and need only 2 years of actual practical experience for full certification
- Sand & Gravel Mine Foreman (Surface IM) – There is no ‘Foreman’ category for Surface IM; all are ‘Mine Foreman’ and need only 2 years of actual practical experience for full certification

#### Is there study material available for the certification tests?

Yes; certification testing study materials are available upon request by contacting the Division at (614) 265-6633 or (740) 942-9150 ext.100, or email your request to [minerals@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:minerals@dnr.state.oh.us).

#### Is any ‘experience credit’ given for college education toward the required actual practical work experience for any Foreman or Mine Foreman certification?

Refer to ORC 1561.16. This clause is presently interpreted to apply to all mining foreman certifications.

#### **ORC 1561.16. Credit for practical experience; qualifications of foreman of gaseous mines.**

*(A) As used in this section and sections 1561.17 to 1561.21 of the Revised Code, “actual practical experience” means previous employment that involved a person’s regular presence in the type of mining operation in which the experience is required to exist; participation in functions relating to the hazards involved in and the utilization of equipment, tools, and work crews and individuals for that type of mining; and regular exposure to the methods, procedures,*

*and safety laws applicable to that type of mining. Credit of up to one year for a portion of the required experience time may be given upon documentation to the chief of the division of mineral resources management of an educational degree in a field related to mining. Credit of up to two years of the required experience time may be given upon presentation to the chief of proof of graduation from an accredited school of mines or mining after a four-year course of study with employment in the mining industry during interim breaks during the school years.*

- Mine Electrician – 12 months electrical experience is required by law and by the Mine Safety & Health Administration and State of Ohio Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). However, the Chief may grant up to six months experience credit for a four-year Electrical Engineering degree. Associate degrees or lesser electrical degrees will not be considered toward fulfilling any portion of the 12 required months of this experience. Refer to the [State of Ohio Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#)

#### DEPUTY MINE INSPECTORS FOR MINE SAFETY

View [ORC 1561.12. Registration and qualifications of applicants](#)

- Mine Safety Inspector I (Surface) – To be eligible to test for Inspector, must already have a valid Mine Safety Foreman certification AND 6 years experience, 2 of which need to be in Ohio mines
- Mine Safety Inspector II (Underground) – Must have a valid Mine Safety Foreman certification AND 6 years experience, 2 of which are to be in Ohio mines
- Mine Rescue Operations Coordinator
- Surface Blaster – Coordinated and administered by Mike Mann, Blasting Specialist, DMRM New Philadelphia office, (330)339-2207

#### **What are the general qualifications for certifications?**

A person who applies for a certificate shall be able to read and write the English language.

#### **How many years of mining experience are required to be fully certified?**

Certification applicants need the following mining experience:

- Surface & Underground Coal certification – 3 full years experience
- Surface IM (Sand & Gravel, or Quarry) certification – 2 years experience (per HB 443, April 2007)
- Mine Electrician certification – 12 months qualifying electrical experience
- Underground Salt, Limestone, or Clay certification – 3 years experience

**Are any DMRM mine safety certifications subject to expiration dates?**

Yes, under certain conditions:

- Surface IM – Prior to HB 443 in April 2007, all Surface IM certifications had no expiration date. This changed with HB 443. As of the signing of this bill, all IM foreman certifications issued prior to 2007 were grandfathered in and these certifications remain valid for five years until April 2012. These people must then recertify under rules approved by the Chief (which are still being promulgated) prior to the 2012 expiration date or the certification becomes null and void. Those IM foremen certified after April 2007 must recertify 5 years from the date of the issuance of the certificate or the certification is suspended until such time as the person recertifies under rules approved by the Chief.
- Foreman / Mine Foreman Gaseous Mine – Under Senate Bill 323 signed into law June 11, 2008, Foreman Gaseous certifications remain valid continuously as long as the miner maintains an active presence in the underground mining industry.
  - Absence Of More Than Two Years From The Underground Mining Industry – A person who has been issued a certificate as a mine foreperson or a foreperson of a nongaseous coal mine and who has not worked in an underground coal mine for a period of more than two calendar years shall apply for and obtain recertification from the chief in accordance with rules adopted under this section before performing the duties of a mine foreperson or a foreperson of a nongaseous coal mine. An applicant for recertification shall pay a fee established in rules adopted under this section at the time of application for recertification.
  - Absence Of One To Two Years From The Underground Mining Industry – A person who has been issued a certificate as a mine foreperson or a foreperson of a nongaseous coal mine and who has not worked in an underground coal mine for a period of one or more calendar years shall successfully complete a retraining course in accordance with rules adopted under this section before performing the duties of a mine foreperson or a foreperson of a nongaseous coal mine.
- Mine Electrician – To remain in good standing as a Mine Electrician, a miner must receive the MSHA-required 8-hour annual Electrical Refresher training at any time during the prescribed calendar year. This training must be received from a certified, qualified MSHA Electrical Instructor.

Example: A miner receives initial Electrical Ohio certification and MSHA qualification in February 2009. This miner has until December 31, 2010 (the following calendar year) to receive the required training.

Should the miner fail to receive this required training in this time frame, both the Ohio Mine Electrician and the MSHA Electrical qualification become null and void on January 1, 2011. To regain certification the miner must reenter and repeat the Ohio Mine Electrician program including a complete retest.

### **Does Ohio recognize another state's mining certifications?**

Ohio has reciprocity only with West Virginia (WV), and only for the Mine Foreman Gaseous, Surface Coal & Auger Foreman, and Mine Electrician certifications. Refer to [WV Testing Memo of Understanding](#). In addition to the MOU, both WV and Ohio now require a Letter of Good Standing for Mine Electrician and Mine Foreman Gaseous mines before accepting application for the respective reciprocity examination or certification.

For all other states for miners holding valid certifications, operators in the state of Ohio can request the state to issue one time, non-renewable temporary foreman cards valid for a period of six months. The person must take and pass the respective mine safety certification test. Temporary cards must be requested by operators for the miner, and are not available to the individual. It is important to note that there are no temporary cards issued for Mine Electrician.

### **Is there any additional documentation required by either West Virginia or Ohio for a person to be eligible to receive certification under the Ohio/WV Reciprocal Agreement? If so, how does someone obtain the documentation?**

Yes. Due to new time, continuous employment, training requirements, and validity restrictions and constraints placed on certifications resulting from new Mine Safety legislation now in effect in each state, both Ohio and WV now require a **Letter of Good Standing**. This letter is issued by the respective state mine safety agency which issued the certification, and is to be presented to the other state prior to consideration for reciprocity. Therefore it is important that this letter be submitted on the head end, along with the official reciprocity certification application.

For example, to request WV reciprocity certification, the holder of the Ohio certification is required to present to officials of the West Virginia Office of Miners Health and Safety Training (WVOMHST), a Letter of Good Standing for the certification being presented.

Upon request by an Ohio-certified individual submitting the appropriate verification, this Letter will be officially issued by the ODNR Division of Mineral Resources Management-Mine Safety. The individual then presents this letter, with application, to the state of West Virginia. West Virginia requires this document prior to moving forward with the other provisions of the Reciprocal Agreement. The procedure is identical for West Virginia-certified individuals requesting Ohio certification under this Reciprocal Agreement.

### **I lost my Ohio foreman's certificate. Can I get another copy of this document?**

Yes; contact the Division. You may be asked to provide certain documentation before a copy of the certificate can be provided.

## **MINE SAFETY TRAINING**

### **What types of mine safety training does the Division provide?**

The following training is available:

- Annual Refresher (8 hour)
- New Miner
- First Aid
- CPR / AED
- Mine Rescue
- Foreman's Training

### **How can I determine what training I need before starting or resuming work as a miner?**

Miners can reference the [Mine Safety Training Requirements](#) to help identify the training needed before a miner can go to work or resume work in a mine.

### **Who do I contact to schedule a certification test or mine safety training class? How often is testing/training conducted?**

A testing/training date will be scheduled when enough applications have been received.

- To schedule surface or underground certification testing, contact Jeff Sabo at (740) 942-9150 ext.100.
- To schedule surface mine safety training, contact Mike Reese at (740) 367-7115 or (614) 205-6340.
- To schedule underground mine safety training, contact Craig Corder at (740) 942-9150, ext.102.

### **How can I obtain the proper application form?**

Electronic copies of [testing application forms are available on the Division's website](#) or contact the Division at (614)265-6633 or (740)942-9150, ext.102 to request a form.