

§ 210.11. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

ATF--The U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Blaster—A person who is licensed by the Department under this chapter to detonate explosives and supervise blasting activities.

Blaster learner—An individual who is learning to be a blaster and who participates in blasting activities under the direct supervision of a blaster.

Blaster's license—A license to detonate explosives and supervise blasting activities issued by the Department under this chapter.

Employee possessor—An individual who is in possession of or has control of explosives materials.

Explosives materials—Any material classified as an explosive by ATF at ATF Publication 5400.8, List of Explosives Materials.

Demolition and demolition blasting—The act of wrecking or demolishing a structure with explosives.

Limited—A classification of blaster's license applicable to persons who supervise the loading or the detonation of explosives in operations in which the use of explosives is not related to excavation.

Mine opening blasting—Blasting conducted for the purpose of constructing a shaft, slope, drift or tunnel mine opening for an underground mine, either operating or under development from the surface down to the point where the mine opening connects with the mineral strata to be or being extracted.

Person—A natural person.

Responsible person—An individual who has the authority to direct the management and policies of the ATF licensee or permittee pertaining to explosive materials. Generally, the term includes partners, sole proprietors, site managers, corporate officers and directors, and majority shareholders.

§ 210.12. Scope.

This chapter applies to persons engaging in the detonation of explosives within this Commonwealth. Except for persons engaging in mine opening blasting, this chapter does not apply to persons authorized to detonate explosives or to supervise blasting activities under:

- (1) The Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Mine Act (52 P. S. § § 70.101—70.1405).
- (2) The Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Mine Act (52 P. S. § § 701-101—701-706).

§ 210.13. General.

(a) A person may not detonate explosives or supervise blasting activities unless the person has obtained a blaster's license.

(b) A blaster's license will only be issued or renewed after it is verified that the applicant has complied with the Federal Safe Explosives Act (P.L. 107-296, Title XI, Subtitle C of the Homeland Security Act of 2002) and 27 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 555 and has undergone a background check as either a responsible person or an employee possessor by ATF. Verification can be provided by the applicant entering the ATF license or permit number under which the requirement for a background check was met.

[(b)] (c) The Department may exempt certain individuals from needing a blaster's license if the person is detonating extremely small amounts of explosives for industrial or research purposes. The Department will consider a written request for an exemption from the person seeking the exemption.

[(c)] (d) Upon request, a blaster shall exhibit a blaster's license to the following:

- (1) An authorized representative of the Department.
- (2) The blaster's employer or an authorized representative of the employer.
- (3) A police officer acting in the line of duty.

[(d)] (e) A blaster's license is not transferable.

§ 210.15. License application.

(a) The license application shall be on forms provided by the Department and be accompanied by a check for [\$50] **\$150.00** payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The complete application shall be submitted to the Department at least 2 weeks prior to the examination.

(b) The license application shall include a signed notarized statement from a person who has direct knowledge of the applicant's expertise, such as the blaster who supervised the applicant, or the applicant's employer. The statement shall:

(1) Describe the applicant's experience in blasting. In particular, the statement shall describe in detail how the applicant assisted in the preparation of the blasts and for how long.

(2) State whether the applicant is competent to prepare and detonate blasts in the classification for which the license is being sought.

§ 210.16. Examinations.

(a) The Department will conduct examinations for specific types of blasting, as specified in § 210.17(a) (relating to issuance and renewal of licenses).

(b) The Department will schedule and conduct examinations as needed.

(c) An applicant failing to appear for a scheduled examination forfeits the application fee unless the applicant provides written notice to the Department **two weeks** prior to the examination date or submits a valid medical excuse in writing.

(d) Refund of the fee or admittance to a subsequent examination without a reapplication fee will be at the discretion of the Department.

§ 210.17. Issuance and renewal of licenses.

(a) A blaster's license is issued for a specific classification of blasting activities. The classifications will be determined by the Department and may include general blasting (which includes all classifications except demolition, mine opening blasting and underground noncoal mining), trenching and construction, **[seismic and pole line work, well perforation,] law enforcement**, surface mining, underground noncoal mining, mine opening blasting, industrial, limited and demolition.

(b) A person may apply to amend the blaster's license for other classifications by meeting the requirements of § 210.14 (relating to eligibility requirements) and by submitting a complete application.

(c) A blaster's license will be issued for 3 years.

(d) A blaster's license is renewable if the blaster can demonstrate that he has had **a minimum of** 8 hours of continuing education in Department-approved courses related to blasting and safety within the 3 year period.

(e) The blaster's license may be renewed for a 3-year term by submitting a renewal application to the Department and a check for **[\$30] \$150.00**, payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(f) A person who intends to be a blaster and whose blaster's license was not renewed within 1 year of its expiration date shall apply for a new license under §§ 210.14—210.16 (relating to eligibility requirements; license application; and examinations).

(g) A person who conducted demolition blasting under a general blaster's license may conduct demolition blasting after July 14, 2001, by applying for and receiving a demolition blaster's license. The Department may waive the examination required by § 210.14 and the application fee if the blaster demonstrates at least 3 years of experience in demolition blasting. The demonstration shall be in the form of a notarized statement from the blaster's employer that describes the blaster's experience.

§ 210.19. Suspension, modification and revocation.

The Department may issue orders suspending, modifying or revoking a blaster's license. Before an order is issued, the Department will give the blaster an opportunity for an informal meeting to discuss the facts and issues that form the basis of the Department's determination to suspend, modify or revoke the license. The Department may suspend, modify or revoke a blaster's license for violations of this chapter, **Chapters 77, 87, 88 (provisions related to the handling and use of explosives)** and Chapter 211 (relating to storage, handling and use of explosives [in surface applications]).

§ 210.20. Fees

(a) The Department will assess an annual administration fee for the administration of Blaster's Licenses. The annual administration fee for a Blaster License shall be \$10.

Subchapter A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

211.101. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Access point—A point in the outer perimeter security and a point in the inner perimeter security that allows entry to or exit from the magazine or the magazine site.

Acts--Sections 3 and 7 of the act of July 1, 1937 (P. L. 2681, No. 537) (73 P. S. §§ 157 and 161); section 3 of the act of July 10, 1957 (P. L. 685, No. 362) (73 P. S. §§ 157, 161 and 166); and Reorganization Plan No.8 of 1981 (71 P. S. § 751-35), which authorize the Department to promulgate implementing regulations for the licensing of blasters and the storage, handling and use of explosives.

Airblast—An airborne shock wave resulting from an explosion, also known as air overpressure, which may or may not be audible.

Annual Administration Fee--A non-refundable fee assessed annually based on the cost to the Department of inspecting and administering a permitted activity or a licensed facility and to administer a permit or license.

ATF--The U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Blast area—The area around the blast site that [should] **must** be cleared **and secured** to prevent **the potential for injury** to persons and damage to property.

Blast site—The specific location where the explosives charges are loaded into the blast holes.

Blaster—An individual who is licensed by the Department under Chapter 210 (relating to blasters' licenses) to detonate explosives and supervise blasting activities.

Blaster-in-charge—The blaster designated to have supervision and control over all blasting activities related to a blast.

Blasting activity—The actions associated with the use of explosives from the time of delivery of explosives to a worksite until all postblast measures are taken, including priming, loading, stemming, wiring or connecting, detonating, and all necessary safety, notification and monitoring measures.

Building—A structure that is designed for human habitation, employment or assembly.

Charge weight—The weight in pounds of an explosive charge.

Concertina razor wire—Razor wire that is extended in a spiral for use as a barrier, such as along or on a fence and having a minimum of 101 coils of wire to 50 linear feet.

Cube Root Scaled distance ($Ds^{1/3}$)—A value calculated by using the actual distance (D) in feet, measured in a horizontal line from the blast site to the nearest building or structure, neither owned nor leased by the blasting activity applicant or permittee, or its customers, divided by the cube root of the maximum weight of explosives (W) in pounds, that is detonated per delay period of less than 8 milliseconds.

$$\underline{Ds^{1/3} = D/(\text{cube root } W)}$$

Delay interval—The designed time interval, usually in milliseconds, between successive detonations.

Detonator—

(i) A device containing an initiating or primary explosive that is used for initiating detonation of explosives.

(ii) The term includes electric blasting caps of instantaneous and delay types, blasting caps for use with safety fuses, detonating cord, delay connectors and nonelectric instantaneous and delay blasting caps.

Displaced material—any material which is displaced by a blast and travels along the ground or through the air which causes damage to property or injury to persons or travels beyond the blast area.

[Display fireworks—

(i) Large fireworks designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion, deflagration or detonation.

(ii) The term includes, but is not limited to, salutes containing more than 2 grains (130 mg) of explosive materials, aerial shells containing more than 40 grams of pyrotechnic compositions, and other display pieces which exceed the limits of explosive materials for classification as consumer fireworks. Display fireworks are classified as fireworks UN0333, UN0334 or UN0335 by the United States Department of Transportation at 49 CFR 172.101 (relating to purpose and use of hazardous materials table).

(iii) The term also includes fused setpieces containing components which together exceed 50 mg of salute powder.]

Employee possessor—An individual who is in possession of or has control of explosives materials.

[Explosive—A chemical compound, mixture or device that contains oxidizing and combustible materials or other ingredients in such proportions or quantities that an ignition by fire, friction, concussion, percussion or detonation may result in an explosion.

(i) The term includes safety fuse, squibs, detonating cord and igniters.

(ii) The term does not include the following:

(A) Commercially manufactured black powder, percussion caps, safety and pyrotechnic fuses, matches and friction primers, intended to be used solely for sporting, recreational or cultural purposes in antique firearms or antique devices, as defined in 18 U.S.C.A. § 921 (relating to definitions).

(B) Smokeless powder, primers used for reloading rifle or pistol cartridges, shot shells, percussion caps and smokeless propellants intended for personal use.]

Explosives Materials—Explosives materials as defined in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 210.

[Flyrock—Overburden, stone, clay or other material ejected cast from the blast area site by the force of a blast and which travels beyond the blast area.]

Flyrock—Overburden, stone, clay, mud, or other material cast from the blast site through the air along the ground or by the force of a blast and which travels beyond the blast area. Flyrock includes, but is not limited to;

(i) overburden, stone, clay or other material which is cast from the blast site through the air along the ground and onto property neither owned nor leased by the permittee or its customer.

(ii) overburden, stone, clay or other material which is cast from the blast site through the air along the ground and beyond permit boundaries on blasting operations on mining permits issued under the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act (52 P. S. § § 1396.1—1396.19a), or the Noncoal Surface Mining and Conservation and Reclamation Act (52 P. S. § § 3301—3326).

Indoor magazine—A magazine located entirely within a secure intrusion-resistant and theft-resistant building which is primarily used for commercial or industrial purposes.

Inner perimeter security—Measures taken to increase the intrusion resistance and theft resistance of a magazine that encircles an individual or a group of magazines. These measures lie within the outer perimeter security measures.

Magazine—A structure used for the storage of explosives.

Misfire—Incomplete detonation of explosives.

Nuisance—A condition which causes a hazard to public health or safety.

Outdoor magazine site—The contiguous area of land upon which the following are located: a magazine or group of magazines; the outer perimeter security, and the inner perimeter security, if any.

Outer perimeter security—Measures taken to increase the intrusion resistance of magazines that encircle the area where the magazines are situated.

Particle velocity—A measure of the intensity of ground vibration, specifically the time rate of change of the amplitude of ground vibration.

Peak particle velocity—The maximum intensity of particle velocity.

Person—A natural person, partnership, association, or corporation or an agency, instrumentality or entity of state government.

Primer—A cartridge or package of high explosives into which a detonator has been inserted or attached.

[Purchase—To obtain ownership of explosives from another person.]

Responsible person--An individual who has the authority to direct the management and policies of the ATF licensee or permittee pertaining to explosive materials. Generally, the term includes partners, sole proprietors, site managers, corporate officers and directors, and majority shareholders.

[Sale or sell—To transfer ownership of explosives to another person.]

Scaled distance (Ds)—A value calculated by using the actual distance (D) in feet, measured in a horizontal line from the blast site to the nearest building or structure, neither owned nor leased by the blasting activity permittee or its customer, divided by the square root of the maximum weight of explosives (W) in pounds, that is detonated per delay period of less than 8 milliseconds.

$$Ds = D/(\text{square root}) W$$

Stemming—Inert material placed in a blast hole after an explosive charge for the purpose of confining the explosion gases to the blast hole, and inert material used to separate explosive charges in decked holes.

Structure—

- (i) A combination of materials or pieces of work built or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner for occupancy, use or ornamentation.
- (ii) The term includes everything that is built or constructed, including bridges, offices, water towers, silos and dwellings.

Unauthorized detonation of explosives--the detonation of explosives by a person who is not licensed to detonate explosives under Chapter 210 (related to blaster's licenses) or the detonation of explosives not authorized by a permit issued under this chapter.

Unauthorized handling and use of explosives--The transportation, handling or use of explosives by a person who is neither a responsible person or an employee possessor acting under the authorization of a responsible person.

Unauthorized storage of explosives—Storage of explosives that is not in a magazine licensed by the Department or by persons who are not responsible persons or employee possessors acting under the authorization of a responsible person.

Utility line—An electric cable, fiber optic line, pipeline or other type of conduit used to transport or transmit electricity, gases, liquids and other media including information.

Wheeled vehicle—A vehicle that moves about on three or more wheels and has a gross vehicle weight of less than 11,000 pounds.

§ 211.102. Scope.

(a) This chapter applies to persons using **or[,] storing[, purchasing and selling]** explosives and engaging in blasting activities within this Commonwealth. Persons **[using and]** storing explosives **underground** at **permitted** underground mines are exempt from this chapter. **Persons conducting blasting underground at underground mines shall comply with § 211.151.** The storage of explosives in magazines on the surface at an underground **[noncoal]** mine is subject to the applicable requirements of this chapter. The provisions of this chapter that are more stringent than the blasting provisions in Chapters 77, 87 and 88 (relating to noncoal mining; surface mining of coal; and anthracite coal) apply to blasting activities at coal or noncoal surface mines.

(b) Compliance with this chapter does not relieve a person who is engaged in **[the purchase or sale of explosives, or]** blasting activities[,] from compliance with other applicable laws or regulations of the Commonwealth.

§ 211.103. Enforcement.

(a) The Department may issue orders necessary to implement this chapter including an order to suspend, modify or revoke a license or permit authorized by this chapter.

(b) Before issuing an order modifying peak particle velocity or airblast limits in a blasting activity permit, the Department will first provide the permittee with an opportunity to meet and discuss modifications.

(c) It shall be a violation to:

(1) Fail to comply with this chapter or provisions of Chapters 77, 87 or 88 related to storage and use of explosives;

(2) Fail to comply with any order or permit or license of the Department issued under this chapter or under Chapters 77, 87 or 88 related to the storage and use of explosives;

(3) Hinder, obstruct, or interfere with the Department or its personnel in the performance of any duty hereunder;

(4) Violate the provisions of 18 Pa.C.S. sections 4903 (relating to false swearing) or 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

(d) The Department may issue orders, citing violations and requiring corrective action, to any person or municipality engaging in any conduct which is a violation as identified in subsection (c) of this section.

(e) The Department will not issue a permit or license to any person who has either:

(1) Failed or continues to fail to comply with this chapter or a condition of a permit issued under this chapter or an order issued to enforce the requirements of this chapter.

(2) Demonstrated an inability or lack of intention to comply with this chapter as indicated by past or continuing violation or violations;

(3) Has not complied with the Federal Safe Explosives Act and 27 CFR 555 and does not have an ATF license or permit, where required;

(4) Has not met the requirements to be authorized as an employee possessor or responsible person by ATF.

Subchapter B. STORAGE AND CLASSIFICATION OF EXPLOSIVES

§ 211.111. Scope.

(a) This subchapter applies to the classification and storage of explosives. It establishes the requirements, procedures and standards for licensing, constructing, and siting and maintaining magazines.

(b) Persons storing explosives underground in permitted underground mines are exempt from this subchapter.

§ 211.112. Magazine license and fees.

(a) A person storing explosives shall do so in a magazine licensed by the Department. A person may not construct, install or modify a magazine until the Department has issued or amended the license in writing. The licensee shall store explosives in accordance with the approved application, the license and this chapter.

(b) A magazine license will only be issued or renewed after it is verified that the applicant has complied with the Federal Safe Explosives Act (P.L. 107-296, Title XI, Subtitle C of the Homeland Security Act of 2002) and 27 CFR 555 and is authorized as either a licensee or a permittee by the Federal Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). Verification can be provided by the applicant entering the ATF license or permit number on the license application.

[(b)] (c) The license specifies the types and quantities of explosives to be stored in the magazine and any other condition necessary to ensure that the proposed activity complies with applicable statutes and this chapter.

[(c)] (d) Licenses **[expire annually on December 31 of each year.] will be issued for a period of time set by the Department and the expiration date will appear on the license.** If the Department receives a complete renewal application by **[December 31] the expiration date,** the licensee may continue to operate under the current license until the Department acts on the renewal application.

[(d)] (e) License fees are as follows:

- (1) License:
 - (i) Application—\$50
 - (ii) Site inspection—\$50
- (2) License modifications—\$50
- (3) License renewals—\$50
- (4) License transfers—no fee

§ 211.113. Application contents.

(a) An application to obtain, renew, modify or transfer a magazine license shall be on forms approved by the Department. Before the Department issues, renews, transfers or modifies a license, the application must demonstrate that the applicant has complied with the applicable requirements of this chapter.

(b) A completed license application shall include:

- (1) The applicant's name, address, **[and]** telephone number **and ATF license or permit number.**
- (2) A contact person, including name, title and telephone number.
- (3) The types and quantities of explosives to be stored within the magazine.
- (4) A map, plan or a sketch of the site location showing the nearest buildings, nearest railways, nearest highways, and existing barricades, if any, and proposed barricades.
- (5) A plan showing the design and specifications of the magazine to be licensed.

(6) A plan showing the design, specifications, dimensions and locations of all security measures to be installed under § 211.115(d) (relating to standards for classifying and storing explosives and constructing, maintaining and siting magazines).

(7) The latitude and longitude of outdoor magazines except for Type 3 magazines as defined in 27 CFR 555.203(c) (relating to types of magazines).

(8) The latitude and longitude of indoor magazines containing high explosives.

(c) A license renewal application shall include:

(1) The applicant's name, address and telephone number.

(2) A contact person, including name, title and telephone number.

(3) The maximum amount and type of explosives for which the magazine is currently licensed.

§ 211.115. Standards for classifying and storing explosives and constructing, maintaining and siting magazines.

(j) All magazine licensees must ensure that a person is available at all times to respond to emergencies and to provide the Department access to the licensed magazines for the purpose of determining regulatory compliance. Department access to the magazines must be granted within 4 hours of a Department request or within a time frame agreed upon by the Department representative and the magazine licensee. Department requests may be verbal or written.

§ 211.116. Decommissioning magazines.

Prior to the expiration or termination of a magazine license, the licensee shall remove and properly dispose of all explosives from the magazine and submit to the Department documentation as to the disposition of these explosives. This documentation shall be provided within twenty days of the expiration or termination of the magazine license.

§ 211.117 Daily summary of magazine transactions.

The licensee shall make records of inventory required by 27 CFR §§ 555.122, 555.123, 555.124, and 555.125 available to the Department upon request.

§ 211.118 Unauthorized Storage of explosives

It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person to engage in the unauthorized storage of explosives.

Subchapter C. PERMITS

§ 211.121. General requirements.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, a person may not engage in blasting activities[, **or sell or purchase explosives**] in this Commonwealth without first obtaining the appropriate permit from the Department issued under this chapter.

(b) Permits under this chapter are not required for the **[sale, purchase or]**use of fireworks governed by the act of May 15, 1939 (35 P. S. § § 1271—1277).

(c) A permit issued under the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act (52 P. S. § § 1396.1—1396.19a), or the Noncoal Surface Mining and Conservation and Reclamation Act (52 P. S. § § 3301—3326), and the regulations promulgated thereunder, authorizing blasting activity shall act as a blasting activity permit issued under this chapter.

(d) An application for a permit **[for the sale or purchase of explosives or]** to conduct blasting activities shall be on a form provided by the Department. A permit will not be issued unless the application is complete and demonstrates that the proposed activities comply with the applicable requirements of this chapter. The Department will notify applicants of an incomplete application and identify the items necessary to complete the application. The permittee shall comply with the approved application, the permit and this chapter.

(e) The Department will not issue a permit to any person who has either:

(1) Failed and continues to fail to comply with this chapter or a condition of a permit issued under this chapter or an order issued to enforce this chapter.

(2) Demonstrated an inability or lack of intention to comply with this chapter as indicated by past or continuing violations.

(g) The permittee, all subcontractors listed on the permit and the blaster-in-charge of any blasts conducted on a permit shall comply with the approved application, the permit and this chapter.

[§ 211.122. Permits to sell explosives.

(a) An application for a permit to sell explosives shall:

(1) Identify the applicant's name, address, telephone number and type of business.

(2) Identify a contact person, including name, title and telephone number.

(3) Specify the type of explosives to be sold.

(4) State whether the applicant will purchase or manufacture the explosives to be sold.

(5) For in-State sellers, include the applicant's magazine license number, if applicable.

(b) Permits to sell explosives are not transferable.

(c) Permits to sell explosives expire on April 30 of each year. If the Department receives a complete renewal application by April 30, the permittee may continue to operate under the current permit until the Department acts on the renewal application.

(d) A permit to sell explosives shall:

(1) Identify the permittee.

(2) Specify the type of explosives that the permittee may sell.

(3) Contain conditions, as necessary, to ensure that the proposed activity complies with applicable statutes and this chapter.

§ 211.123. Permits to purchase explosives.

(a) An application for a permit to purchase explosives shall:

(1) Identify the applicant's name, address, telephone number and type of business.

(2) Identify a contact person, including name, title and telephone number.

(3) Identify the location and license number of the magazine to be used for storing the explosives, if applicable.

(4) Specify the type of explosives that will be purchased.

(5) Specify whether the explosives are being purchased for sale or use by the permittee.

(b) Permits to purchase explosives are not transferable.

(c) Permits to purchase explosives expire on April 30 of each year. If the Department receives a complete renewal application by April 30, the permittee may continue to operate under the current permit until the Department acts on the renewal.]

§ 211.124. Blasting activity permits.

(a) An application for a blasting activity permit shall be prepared by a blaster **authorized by the Department to conduct the blasting proposed in the application** and shall include:

(1) The applicant's name, address, telephone number and type of business.

(2) The signature of the applicant or an authorized representative of the applicant.

(3) The ATF license or permit number of the applicant or the contract blaster.

[(2)] **(4) [A contact person's] The name, title and telephone number of a [contact] person who can be reached by the Department in the event of an emergency or other reason relating to the blasting activity permitted.**

[(3)] **(5)** The identity of independent subcontractors who will be performing the blasting activities.

[(4)] **(6)** The [type] **specific types** of explosives to be used.

[(5)] **(7)** The maximum amount of explosives that will be detonated per delay interval of less than 8 milliseconds.

[(6)] **(8)** The maximum amount of explosives that will be detonated in any one blast.

(9) The minimum scaled distance based on calculations made from actual site conditions. In demolition blasting operations the minimum scaled distance must be cube root scaled distance.

[(7)] **(10)** A map indicating the location where the explosives will be used **and the proximity of explosives use to public roads, buildings or other structures.**

[(8)] **(11)** The purpose for which the explosives will be used.

[(9)] **(12)** The location and license number of the magazine that will be used to store the explosives, if applicable.

[(10)] **(13)** A description of how the monitoring requirements of Subchapter G (relating to requirements for monitoring) will be satisfied.

[(11)] **(14)** Proof [of] **that the Permittee has** third party general liability insurance in the amount of [~~\$300,000~~] **\$1,000,000** or greater per occurrence **to cover the blasting activity.** This requirement is not applicable if the permittee is a noncoal surface mine operator who produces

no more than 2,000 tons (1,814 metric tons) of marketable minerals per year from all its noncoal surface mining operations.

[(12)] **(15)** The anticipated duration of the blasting activity for which the permit is needed.

[(13)] **(16)** The anticipated days of the week and times when blasting may occur.

[(14)] **(17)** The distance **in feet** and direction **in degrees** to the **[closest]** building not owned by the permittee or its customer **that will be closest to the blasting.**

[(15)] **(18)** Other information needed by the Department to determine compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

[(16)] **(19)** The printed name, signature and license number of the blaster who prepared the application.

[(17)] **(20)** Proof that residents within **[200] 300** feet (**[65.61] 91.44** meters) of the blast site, **or other distance established in the permit,** were informed of the proposed blasting operation. This notification could be a personal notification, written material left at each residence, or first class mail. The notification will provide general information about the blasting operation including the duration of the operation.

(b) Blasting activity permits are not transferable.

(c) The blasting activity permit shall specify:

(1) The blasting activity permittee.

(2) Any independent subcontractors performing work under this permit.

(3) Limits on particle velocity and airblast.

(4) The types of explosives that may be used.

(5) The duration of the permit.

(6) Other conditions necessary to ensure that the proposed blasting activity complies with the applicable statutes and this chapter.

(7) Loading plans which describe ranges of bore hole diameters and their depths, burdens and spacings.

(8) Types of stemming material

(d) The permittee may request extensions and modifications by submitting an amended application.

(e) The blaster-in-charge shall have in his or her possession a copy of the approved blasting activity permit authorizing the blasting activity being conducted. For blasting activities conducted on and authorized by permits issued under the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act (52 P. S. §§ 1396.1--1396.19a), or the Noncoal Surface Mining and Conservation and Reclamation Act (52 P. S. §§ 3301--3326), possession of the blasting plan for that permit constitutes possession of a copy of the approved blasting activity permit authorizing the blasting activity being conducted.

§ 211.125. Blasting activity permit-by-rule.

(a) Except for blasting activities for the purpose of demolition or seismic exploration, a person shall be deemed to have a permit for a blasting activity if:

(1) The blasts are designed and performed for a scaled distance of 90 or greater.

(2) No more than 15 pounds (6.81 kilograms) of explosives are detonated per delay interval of less than 8 milliseconds.

(3) The total charge weight per blast does not exceed 150 pounds (68.18 kilograms).

(4) The person notifies the Department either verbally, in writing, or by other means approved by the Department prior to the initial blast. If the person gives verbal notification, a written notice shall be received by the Department within 5 working days. The notification shall indicate the following information for all blasts that will occur under this permit:

(i) The identity of the person.

(ii) The location where the blasting will occur.

(iii) The purpose of the blasting.

(iv) The distance to the nearest building not owned or leased by the person or its customer.

(v) The days of the week and times when blasting may occur.

(vi) The duration of blasting activities under this permit by rule.

(vii) The minimum scaled distance.

(viii) The maximum weight of explosives detonated per delay period of less than 8 milliseconds.

- (ix) The maximum total weight of explosives per blast.
- (x) A contact person and telephone number.
- (5) Blast reports are completed in accordance with § 211.133 (relating to blast report).
- (6) The other monitoring and performance standards of this chapter are met.
- (b) The Department may revoke a blasting activity permit by rule under one of the following:
 - (1) The permittee has demonstrated an unwillingness or inability to comply with the applicable regulations.
 - (2) The blasting activity possesses a sufficient risk of harm to the public or the environment to warrant an individual blasting activity permit.

§211.126 Fees

(a) Blasting Activity Permit fees are as follows:

(1) Blasting Activity Permit—Paper Application \$210.00

(2) Blasting Activity Permit—Filed on-line \$130.00

(3) Blasting Activity Permit-by-rule--\$12.00

(b) Explosives Storage License fees are as follows:

(1) Magazine Security Plan, required under section 211.113--\$225.00

(2) Explosive Storage Magazine Security Plan Revision, required under Section 211.113--\$90.00

(3) Explosive Storage Magazine Decommissioning, required under Section 211.116--\$50.00 per magazine.

(c) The Department shall assess a fee for inspecting and monitoring an explosive storage magazine. This annual administration fee shall be assessed annually and shall be collected as part of the explosive storage license application renewal process. The Annual Administration Fee for each explosives storage magazine shall be \$85.

Subchapter D. RECORDS OF DISPOSITION OF EXPLOSIVES

[§211.131. Sales records.

The seller shall keep an accurate record of every sale of explosives for 3 years. The record shall identify the purchaser's name and address, the Department purchase permit number, the date of the sale and the amount and types of explosives.

§ 211.132. Purchase records.

The purchaser shall keep a record of all purchases of explosives for 3 years. The record shall identify the date, types and amounts of explosives purchased and the name and address of the seller.]

§ 211.133. Blast reports.

(a) The blaster-in-charge shall prepare a report of each blast to provide the Department with sufficient information to reconstruct the conditions and events surrounding a blast. The Department may develop and require a blast report form to be used. The blasting activity permittee shall retain the blast report for at least 3 years and shall make the blast report available to the Department upon request. Blast reports shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The location[s] of **at least one corner of** the blast **pattern** expressed in latitude and longitude[**and monitoring readings**].

(2) **The distance(s) in feet, and direction(s) in degrees from the blast to the seismograph monitoring location(s).**

(3) **The latitude and longitude and a brief description of the monitoring locations. If monitoring is conducted at a home or other building with a 911 address, the address of the structure must be provided.**

[(2)] **(4)** The name of the blasting activity permittee.

[(3)] **(5)** The blasting activity permit or appropriate mining permit number.

[(4)] **(6)** The date and time of the blast.

[(5)] **(7)** The printed name, signature and license number of the blaster-in-charge.

[(6)] **(8)** The type of material blasted.

[(7)] **(9)** A sketch showing the number of blast holes, burden, spacing, pattern dimensions, **delay timing sequence, description of the ground surrounding the blast site,** and point of initiation.

[(8)] **(10)** The diameter and depth of **each** blast hole[s].

[(9)] **(11)** The height or length of stemming and deck separation for each hole.

(12) The amount of explosives loaded in each borehole.

[(10)] **(13)** The types of explosives used and arrangement in blast holes.

[(11)] **(14)** The total weight in pounds of explosives, **product density for bulk blasting agents, weight of packaged blasting agents** and primer cartridges used.

[(12)] **(15)** The maximum weight in pounds of explosives detonated per delay period of less than 8 milliseconds.

[(13)] **(16)** The type of circuit, if electric detonation was used.

[(14)] **(17)** The direction **in degrees** and distance in feet from the blast site to the nearest building not owned **or leased** by the blasting activity permittee or its customer.

[(15)] **(18)** A **general** description, **including the street address and latitude and longitude** of the nearest building **[location]** not owned or leased by the blasting activity permittee or its customer **[based upon local landmarks]**.

[(16)] **(19)** The scaled distance **to the nearest building or other structure neither owned nor leased by the blasting activity permittee or its customer.**

[(17)] **(20)** The weather conditions.

[(18)] **(21)** The direction from which the wind was coming.

[(19)] **(22)** The measures taken to control flyrock, including whether or not mats were used.

[(20)] **(23)** The total quantity and type of detonators used and delays used.

[(21)] **(24)** The number of individuals in the blasting crew.

[(22)] **(25)** The maximum number of blast holes or portions of blast holes detonated per delay period less than 8 milliseconds.

(26) A log showing the conditions of all of the loaded boreholes.

[(23)] **(27)** The monitoring records required by § 211.173 (relating to monitoring records). Monitoring records shall be made part of the blast report within 30 days of the blast. Beginning July 14, 2004, monitoring records shall be made part of the blast report within 14 days of the blast. The Department may grant a waiver to allow monitoring records to be made part of

the blasting record within 30 days of the blast if all blasts, regardless of scaled distance, are monitored and monthly summaries of these reports, including the information required in subsection (b), are provided. Monitoring records shall be made part of the blast report within 7 days, if requested by the Department.

[(24)] (28) If a misfire occurred, the actions taken to make the site safe as specified in § 211.157 (relating to postblast measures).

(b) The Department may require monthly summaries of these reports. The summaries shall include the date and time of the blasts, scaled distance, peak particle velocity, airblast, monitoring location, amount and types of explosives used and other information the Department deems necessary to ensure compliance with this chapter.

Subchapter E. TRANSPORTATION OF EXPLOSIVES

§ 211.141. General requirements.

The blasting activity [, **purchase or sale**] permittee shall:

- (1) Immediately unload a vehicle carrying explosives upon reaching a magazine location. The unloaded vehicle shall be removed from the site. The only exception to this requirement is if the vehicle is a licensed magazine under Subchapter B (relating to the storage and classification of explosives).
- (2) Load or unload explosives from a vehicle only after the engine is turned off, unless power is needed for the loading or unloading operation. The permittee shall take all precautions necessary, such as blocking the wheels, to prevent the movement of the vehicle while it is being loaded or unloaded.
- (3) Load explosives only into a vehicle that is marked in accordance with the Department of Transportation standards for placarding vehicles transporting explosives.
- (4) Prohibit smoking within 100 feet of a vehicle used for transporting explosives. “NO SMOKING” signs shall be posted when a vehicle containing explosives is parked at a blast site or magazine.
- (5) Load no more than 2,000 pounds (908 kilograms) of explosives into an open body vehicle for transporting. The ends and sides shall be high enough to prevent explosives from falling off, and the load shall be covered with a fire-resistant tarpaulin, unless the explosives are transported in a magazine securely attached to the vehicle.
- (6) Load explosives into a closed body vehicle if the load is more than 2,000 pounds (908 kilograms) of explosives.

(7) Only load explosives into a vehicle with a bed made of wood or other nonsparking material.

(8) Load explosives into a vehicle which is also transporting metal, metal tools, blasting machines or other articles or materials likely to damage the explosives, only if these items are separated from the explosives by substantial nonsparking bulkheads constructed to prevent damage to the explosives.

(9) Load detonators and other explosives into the same vehicle only if the detonators are in containers that conform to the current version of the *Institute of Makers of Explosives Safety Library Publication # 22* available from the Institute of Makers of Explosives, 1120 Nineteenth Street, N. W., Suite 310, Washington, DC 20036-3605.

(10) Not load explosives into the same vehicle with materials such as matches, firearms, electric storage batteries, corrosive compounds, flammable substances, acids, oxidizing agents and ammonium nitrate not in the original containers.

(11) Only load explosives into vehicles equipped with a fire extinguisher having a National Board of Underwriters Laboratories rating of 10 B:C or more. The fire extinguisher shall be easily accessible and ready for immediate use.

(12) Load explosives into a vehicle so that explosives containers are not exposed to sparks or hot gases from the exhaust tailpipe. Exhaust systems that discharge upwards are recommended to avoid possible exposure of sparks or hot gases to explosives.

(13) Only load explosives into **on road** vehicles that have passed the State safety inspection or certification.

(14) Only load explosives into off road vehicles that are properly equipped to carry explosives.

(15) Remove explosives prior to conducting maintenance or repair work on vehicles containing explosives or detonators.

Subchapter F. BLASTING ACTIVITIES

§ 211.151. Prevention of damage or injury.

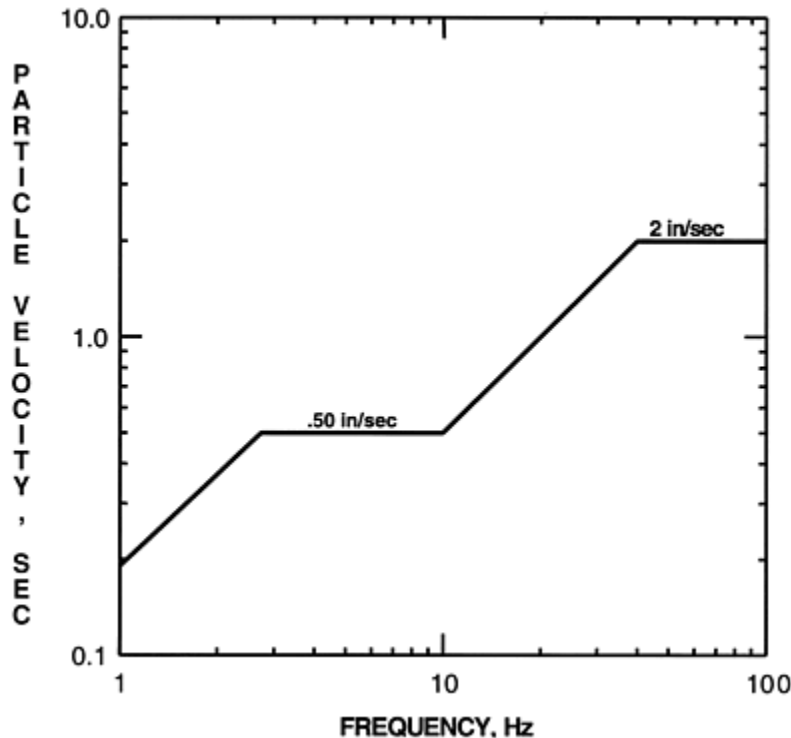
(a) Blasting **shall be conducted to prevent injury to persons, [may not] or damage [real] to private or public property except for [real] property [under the control of the] owned or leased by permittee or its customer.** If damage **[occurs] to property or injuries to persons occurs,** the blaster-in-charge shall notify the Department within 4 hours of learning of the damage **or injuries occurring.**

(b) Blasting shall be conducted in a manner that does not cause a nuisance.

[(b)] (c) Blasting may not cause flyrock. If flyrock occurs, the blaster-in-charge shall notify the Department within 4 hours of learning of the flyrock.

[(c)] (d) Blasts shall be designed and conducted in a manner that achieves either a scaled distance of 90 at the closest building or other structure designated by the Department or meets the [maximum] allowable [peak] particle velocity as indicated by Figure 1 at [the closest] any building or other structure designated by the Department. [However, blasting activities authorized prior to July 14, 2001, may continue as authorized unless the authorization is modified, suspended or revoked by the Department.] The scaled distance and maximum allowable peak particle velocity does not apply at a building or other structure owned or leased by the permittee or its customer.

Figure 1.



[(d)] (e) Blasts shall be designed and conducted to control airblast so that it does not exceed [the noise levels specified in Table] 133 dBL at [a] any building or other structure designated by the Department unless the building is owned or leased by the permittee or its customer.

[Table 1	
Lower frequency limits of measuring System in Hz(+3dB)	Maximum allowable levels in dBL
0.1 Hz or lower —	134 peak

flat response*	
2.0 Hz or lower — flat response	133 peak
6.0 Hz or lower — flat response	129 peak
C - weighted — slow response*	105 peak
*only when approved by the Department]	

[(e) (f) Except on permits issued under the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act (52 P. S. §§ 1396.1--1396.19b), [The] the Department may establish an alternative peak particle velocity or airblast level at a building or other structure if it determines that either:

(1) The [an] alternative standard [is appropriate because of density of population, land use, age or type of geology or hydrology of the area, frequency of blasts or other factors] will provide for adequate protection of the building or other structure; or,

(2) The owner of the building or the other structure waives the ground vibration limit in 211.151 (c) or the airblast limit in 211.151(d).

(g) The blasting activity permittee must notify the Department within 24 hours of learning that the maximum allowable peak particle velocity or the maximum allowable airblast level are exceeded at any building or other structure designated by the Department.

.....

(h) All blasting activities shall be conducted in a manner which prevents damage to utility lines

§ 211.152. Control of noxious gases, including Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx).

(a) A blast shall be conducted so that the **toxic** gases generated by the blast **including carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen** do not affect the health **[and] or** safety of individuals. **[Effects from gases] Gas migration** may be prevented **or minimized** by taking measures such as venting the gases to the atmosphere **and** interrupting the path along which gases may flow. **[and evacuating]Evacuating** people from areas that may contain gases **could prevent their health from being affected.**

(b) The blasting activity permittee must notify the Department within 4 hours if the toxic gases generated by the blast affect the health and/or safety of individuals.

§ 211.154. Preparing the blast.

(a) The blasting activity permittee shall designate a blaster-in-charge for each blast. The blaster-in-charge shall control and supervise the blasting activity. **[The] A blaster-in-charge is responsible for all effects of the [blast] blasts that blaster-in-charge detonates. The blasting activity permittee is responsible for the effects of all blasts detonated pursuant to the Blasting Activity Permit.**

(b) Only equipment necessary for loading blast holes may be allowed to operate within 50 feet (15.24 meters) of the blast site. The Department may establish, in writing, a different distance limitation. **If a written request for a lower distance limitation is submitted to the Department, the request must provide detailed information including why the lower distance limitation is necessary and how blast site safety will be maintained. The Department's written establishment for a lower distance limitation will include all necessary safety requirements.**

(c) A blaster-in-charge may not prepare or detonate a blast unless another person is present, able and ready to render assistance in the event of accident or injury.

(d) The blaster-in-charge shall **[make every effort to]** determine the condition of the material to be blasted from the individual who drilled the blast holes, **[or] from the drill log, or at the hole communication prior to loading a blast. The permittee must ensure that a written drill log or at the hole communication is available to the blaster-in-charge.**

(e) Only the blaster-in-charge, other blasters, and up to six assistants per blaster may be at a blast site once loading of blast holes begins.

(f) While loading a blast hole, the following measures shall be followed:

(1) Ferrous material may not be used in the blast hole unless the use is approved by the Department in writing. This includes the use of steel casings, ferrous tools and retrieving equipment.

(2) Only nonferrous, nonsparking tamping sticks may be used in loading a blast hole. Sectional poles connected by brass fittings are permitted, if only the nonferrous, nonsparking end of the pole is used for tamping. Retrieving hooks shall be made from nonsparking metal such as brass or bronze.

(3) When using a pneumatic loading device, every precaution shall be taken to prevent an accumulation of static electricity. A loading operation shall be stopped immediately if static electricity or stray electrical currents are detected. The condition shall be remedied before loading may be resumed.

(4) The blast hole shall be carefully checked for obstructions with a nonferrous, nonsparking tamping pole, a tape, a light or a mirror before it is loaded. The use of magnifying mirrors is prohibited. Explosives may not be forced past an obstruction in a blast hole.

(5) Each blast hole shall be logged throughout the **[leading] loading** process to measure the amount and location of explosives placed in the blast hole. The information is to be recorded on the blast report required by § 211.133 (relating to blast report).

(6) A blast hole containing loose dynamite shall be stemmed but not tamped.

(7) The Department may specify the type and amount of stemming.

(g) Before connecting one loaded blast hole to another, all activity within the blast area shall cease, and all nonessential persons shall retreat to a safe place. The blaster-in-charge shall determine the blast area.

(h) Primers shall be prepared only at the hole to be loaded, immediately prior to loading. The components of the primer are to be kept separated at the collar of the blast hole. The primer may not be slit, dropped, deformed or carelessly handled and may not be tamped or forced into the blast hole.

(i) Immediately upon completing the loading of a blast hole, any wood, paper or other materials used to pack explosives shall be inspected for the presence of explosives and removed to an isolated area. These materials may be burned after the blast has been fired. Persons may not be within 100 feet (30.48 meters) of these burning materials.

(j) Measures shall be taken to reduce the chance of flyrock including:

(1) The use of blasting mats or other protective devices, if, in the opinion of the blaster-in-charge, the measures are necessary to prevent injuries to persons or damage to property.

(2) When blasting to an open, vertical face, checking the face for loose, hanging material or other faults prior to loading the blast holes.

(k) Explosives may not be brought to a blast site in greater quantities than are expected to be needed for that blast. Surplus explosives may not be stored in the blast area.

(l) Before a blast hole is loaded, it shall be checked to ensure that it is cool and does not contain any hot metal or smoldering material remaining from drilling the hole.

(m) The use of abrasive or sharp-edged constituents in stemming material shall be avoided if tamping is necessary and the tamping may sever blasting cap leg wires, shock tubes or detonating cords.

[(n) Blasting activities may not be conducted within 800 feet (243.84 meters) of a public roadway unless precautionary measures are taken to safeguard the public. Precautionary measures include stopping or slowing of traffic and posting signs.]

(n) The permittee must ensure that public highways and entrances to the areas where blasting will occur are barricaded and guarded if the highways and entrances to areas where blasting will occur are located within 800 feet of a point where a blast is about to be fired. The permittee may use an alternative measure to this requirement if the permittee demonstrates, to the Department's satisfaction, that the alternative measure is at least as effective at protecting persons and property from the adverse effects of a blast. Alternative measures are measures such as:

(1) Slowing or stopping traffic in coordination with appropriate State or local authorities, including local police.

(2) Using mats to suppress fly rock.

(3) Designing the blast to prevent damage or injury to persons and property located on the public highways or at the operation's entrances by using design elements such as:

(i) Orienting the blast so that the direction of relief is away from public highways or operation entrances.

(ii) Adjusting blast design parameters including:

(A) The diameter of holes.

(B) The number of rows.

(C) The number of holes.

(D) The amount and type of explosive.

(E) The burden and spacing.

(F) The amount and type of stemming.

(G) The powder factor.

§ 211.155. Preblast measures.

Prior to detonating a blast, the blaster-in-charge shall:

(1) Ensure that all excess explosives have been removed from the blast area and are located in a safe area.

- (2) Inspect the blast site to ensure that connections are proper and adequate.
- (3) Ensure that the blast area is cleared and safeguarded.
- (4) In addition to the warning signal, notify all persons who may be in danger.
- (5) Ensure that the necessary precautions are in place to protect the public on public roads.
- (6) At least 1 minute but no more than 2 minutes prior to detonation, sound a warning signal of three blasts, each lasting approximately 5 seconds. The warning signal shall be of sufficient power to be heard 1,000 feet (304.80 meters) from the blast site.

(7) Signs must be posted at access points to a blast site which clearly warn of explosives use. If there are no specific access points a minimum of four signs must be posted on all sides of the blast site at a distance of 100 feet from the blast site.

§ 211.158. Mudcapping.

Mudcapping in blasting activities is allowed only if the blaster-in-charge determines that drilling the material to be blasted would endanger the safety of the workers. If mudcapping is necessary, no more than [10 pounds] **1 pound** ([4.53] **0.454** kilograms) of explosives shall be used for a blast.

Subchapter G. REQUIREMENTS FOR MONITORING

§ 211.171. General provisions for monitoring.

(a) If the scaled distance of a blast is 90 or numerically less at the closest building not owned or leased by the blasting activity permittee or its customer, ground vibration and airblast monitoring shall be conducted. The Department may require the permittee to conduct ground vibration and airblast monitoring at other buildings or structures even if the scaled distance is greater than 90.

[(b) Blasting activities without monitoring may be considered in compliance with this chapter if at a specified location, on at least five blasts, monitoring has demonstrated that the maximum peak particle velocity at the specified location represents more than a 50% reduction from the limit in the permit and this chapter. Future blasts shall maintain a scaled distance equal to or greater than the scaled distance for the monitored blasts.]

[(c)] **(b)** If monitoring is required, a ground vibration and airblast record of each blast shall be made part of the blast report.

[(d)] **(c)** If monitoring is performed with instruments that have variable “trigger levels,” the trigger for ground vibration shall be set at a particle velocity of no more than .25 inches per second unless otherwise directed by the Department.

[(e)] **(d)** If the peak particle velocity and airblast from a blast are below the set trigger level of the instrument, a printout from the instrument shall be attached to the blast report. This printout shall provide the date and time when the instrument was turned on and off, the set trigger levels and information concerning the status of the instrument during the activation period. When an instrument is used that does not provide this information, the Department will allow the permittee to supply on/off times on a signed statement.

(e) Blasting seismographs shall be deployed in the field according to the guidelines established by the International Society of Explosives Engineer’s Standards Committee

§ 211.172. Monitoring instruments.

(a) If monitoring is required, the monitoring instrument shall provide a permanent record of each blast.

[(1) A monitoring instrument for recording ground vibration, at a minimum, shall have:

(i) A frequency range of 2 Hz to 100 Hz.

(ii) Particle velocity range of .02 to 4.0 inches (5.08×10^{-4} to 0.10 meters) per second or greater.

(iii) An internal dynamic calibration system.

(2) A monitoring instrument used to record airblast shall have:

(i) A lower frequency limit of 0.1, 2.0 or 6.0 Hz.

(ii) An upper end flat-frequency response of at least 200 Hz.

(iii) A dynamic range that, at a minimum, extends from 106 to 142 dBL.]

(b) The monitoring instrument must be constructed to meet the guide established by the International Society of Explosives Engineer’s Standards Committee.

(c) A monitoring instrument shall be calibrated annually and when an instrument is repaired and the repair may affect the response of the instrument. Calibration shall be done by the manufacturer of the equipment, or by an organization approved by the manufacturer, or by an

organization having verifiable knowledge of the calibration procedures developed by the manufacturer. The calibration procedure shall include testing the response of the entire system to externally-generated dynamic inputs. These inputs shall test the entire monitoring system at a sufficient number of discrete frequency intervals to assure flat response throughout the frequency ranges specified by this chapter. Dynamic reference standards used for calibration shall be traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Calibration procedures and documentation of calibration shall be made available for review by the Department.

[(4)] **(d)** A nonalterable sticker that is clearly visible shall be firmly affixed to the instrument. The sticker shall indicate the name of the calibration facility, the calibration technician, the date of calibration and frequency range of the airblast monitor.

Subchapter H. BLASTING ACTIVITIES NEAR UTILITY LINES

§ 211.181. Scope.

This subchapter applies to buried or underground utility lines and utility lines making contact with the surface of the ground.

§ 211.182. General provisions.

(a) Prior to conducting blasting activities within two hundred feet of an underground utility line the blasting activity permittee must ensure that the owner of the line is notified of the blasting activities and demonstrate to the Department that that notification has been made.

[(a)] **(b)** Blasts shall be designed and conducted so that they provide the greatest relief possible in a direction away from the utility line and to keep the resulting vibration and actual ground movement to the lowest possible level.

(b) Blasting shall use a type of explosive specifically designed to minimize the likelihood of propagation between explosive charges.

(c) When blasting within 200 feet (60.96 meters) of a utility line, blast holes may not exceed 3 inches (7.62 x 10⁻² meters) in diameter.]

[(d)] **(c)** Blasting in the vicinity of a utility line shall be conducted as follows:

(1) Excavation from the ground surface to a depth corresponding to the elevation of the top of the buried utility line may proceed at the discretion of the blaster-in-charge, using safe, accepted techniques.

(2) Once the excavation has attained a depth equal to the elevation of the top of the buried utility line or if the line is exposed, or makes solid contact with the surface, the vertical depth of subsequent blast holes shall be restricted to one half the horizontal distance from the closest portion of the utility line.

[(e)] **(d)** If one or more of the requirements listed in this section are not feasible or creates a potential safety problem, the permittee may apply to the Department for a waiver of the provision or provisions in question. This waiver will be granted if, in the judgment of the Department and the utility owning the lines, the alternate procedure does not endanger the utility line.

Subchapter I. SEISMIC EXPLORATION

§211.191 Scope

This subchapter is applicable to seismic exploration activities which employ explosives. Unless otherwise specified all of the provisions of Subchapters A through H apply to persons engaging in seismic exploration activities using explosives.

§211.192. Permits

(a) In addition to the requirements of Subchapter C (relating to permits) an application for a Blasting Activity Permit for seismic exploration shall include the following:

(1) A detailed plan describing how explosives loaded in the ground will be kept under the control of the permittee, secured against being compromised, detonated, unearthed, or otherwise tampered with.

(2) The maximum time, in days that explosives will be allowed to remain in the borehole from loading until detonation.

(3) A map clearly delineating all of the areas where the placement of explosives charges is planned and the footprint of any mining permits where mining, reclamation or water treatment are occurring, or may occur, within 500 feet of where the placement of explosives charges is planned .

(4) Detailed information, including data sheets and warranty information, on the explosives products to be used.

§ 211.193 Blasting Records

(a) In addition to the requirements of §211.133, blast reports on seismic exploration operations shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) When the explosives were loaded into holes.**
- (2) The blaster-in-charge who supervised and/or loaded the charges**
- (3) The specific location of the loading of the charges, expressed in latitude/longitude**
- (4) The blaster-in-charge who detonated the charges,**
- (5) When the charges were detonated.**

§211.194. General requirement for handling explosives on a seismic exploration operation:

(a) Sections 211.153 (e) and (f) are not applicable to the handling and use of explosives for seismic exploration operations.

(b) Except as specified in subsection a, in addition to the requirements of Subchapter F (relating to Blasting Activities), the following provisions apply to the handling and use of explosives on seismic exploration operations:

(1) All explosives loaded into boreholes must either be detonated or removed from the borehole after the maximum number of days specified in the applicable blasting activity permit.

(2) No explosives charges shall be placed closer than 300 feet from any building or other structure designated by the Department unless authorized by the Department.

(3) All detonators used in seismic exploration operations must employ the best technology available for security and functionality under the conditions into which the detonators are loaded.

(4) No explosives may be placed on areas permitted for mining activities pursuant to 25 Pa. Code Chapter 77 (relating to Noncoal Mining) or 25 Pa. Code Chapter 86 (relating to Surface and Underground Coal Mining-General) without prior Department approval. To obtain Department approval to place explosives on area permitted for mining activities the permit applicant must provide information including but not limited to the following:

- (i) Demonstration of authorization to place explosives charges on the to conduct activities on the site.**

(ii) A plan to ensure the safety and security of explosives charges on the mining permit from loading through detonation of the charges.

(iii) A map detailing the specific location of where charges are to be placed on the mining permit area.

(iv) If MSHA required training is necessary how and when that training will be obtained and who will obtain the training. Written documentation of the training must be provided to the Department prior to entry onto the mining permit.

(5) The permittee is responsible for the security of all charges in the ground to prevent the charges from being detonated, removed, or otherwise tampered with. Security of all explosives charges must be provided in accordance with the approved blasting activity permit.

(6) For all incidents where explosives are loaded into boreholes and have had their functionality compromised by loading, handling or manufacturing defects, the explosives shall be removed from the borehole or destroyed in place.

(7) Explosives charges shall not remain in the ground for more than one year.

Subchapter J. CIVIL PENALTIES

§211.201 Scope

This subchapter is applicable to the assessment of civil penalties for the use of explosives on permitted blasting activity sites and for the unauthorized detonation, storage, transportation, handling or use of explosives.

§211.202. Inspection—general.

Whenever a Department inspection determines that there is a violation of any provision of this chapter or permit issued pursuant to this chapter, the Department will notify the alleged violator either by copy of the inspection report, notice of violation or through Department order or other enforcement document. The failure of the Department to issue a notice of a violation may not be interpreted to be evidence of the absence of a violation. The notices, documents or records shall be available for public inspection at the appropriate Department district office.

§211.203. Assessment of penalty.

(a) The Department will assess a civil penalty for each violation which is included as a basis for a cessation order.

(b) The Department may assess a civil penalty for each violation. The amount of the civil penalty will not exceed \$10,000 per day for each violation.

§211.204. System for assessment of penalties.

(a) The penalty may be set at any amount from zero through the maximum of \$10,000 amount specified in this section.

(b) Civil penalties will be assessed as follows:

(1) *Seriousness.* Up to \$10,000 will be assessed based on the seriousness of the violation, including:

(i) Personal injury or death.

(ii) Damage or injury to the lands or to the waters of the Commonwealth or their uses.

(iii) The cost of restoration.

(iv) A hazard to the health or safety of the public.

(v) Private property damage.

(vi) Government property damage

(vii) The interference with a person's right to the comfortable enjoyment of life or property.

(viii) Unauthorized detonation of explosives.

(2) *Culpability.* If the violation was caused, contributed to or allowed to continue due to negligence on the part of persons working on the blasting activity site, a penalty of up to \$2,000 will be assessed depending on the degree of negligence of the persons. If the violation was willful or the result of reckless conduct on the part of the person working on the blasting activity permit site, or a result of unauthorized detonation, transportation, storage, handling or use of explosives, a penalty of up to the maximum of \$10,000, but at least \$500, will be assessed. Blasting to intentionally cause private property damage, government property damage, personal injury or death shall be assessed at the maximum of \$10,000.

(3) *Speed of compliance.* A credit will be given of up to \$1,000 based on the person's attempt to achieve rapid compliance after the person knew or should have known of the violation. If the violation is abated within the time period set forth in an abatement order, a credit will not be given under this paragraph unless the violation is abated in the shortest possible time, in which case a credit of up to \$1,000 will be given. The credit will be available to offset only civil penalties assessed for the specific violation at issue.

(4) Cost to the Commonwealth. A penalty may be assessed based on the costs expended by the Commonwealth as a result of the violation. The costs may include:

(i) Administrative costs.

(ii) Costs of inspection.

(iii) Costs of the collection, transportation and analysis of samples.

(iv) Costs of preventive or restorative measures taken to prevent or lessen the threat of damage to a property or environmental value, or to prevent or reduce injury to a person.

(5) Savings to the violator. If the person who commits the violation gains economic benefit as a result of the violation, a penalty may be assessed in an amount equal to the savings up to the regulatory maximum for each violation.

(6) History of previous violations. In determining a penalty for a violation, the Department will consider previous violations of the applicable laws for which the same person or municipality has been found to have been responsible in a prior adjudicated proceeding, agreement, consent order or decree which became final within the previous 1-year period on the permit where the violation has occurred. The penalty otherwise assessable for each violation shall be increased by a factor of 5% for each previous violation. The total increase in assessment based on history of previous violation will not exceed \$1,000.

(i) A previous violation will not be counted if it is the subject of pending administrative or judicial review, or if the time to request the review or to appeal the administrative or judicial decision determining the previous violation has not expired.

(ii) Each previous violation will be counted without regard to whether it led to a civil penalty assessment.

(c) Whenever a violation is included as a basis for an administrative order requiring the cessation of a blasting operation, or for another abatement order, and if the violation has not been abated within the abatement period set in the order, a civil penalty of at least \$750 per violation per day shall be assessed for each day during which the failure to abate continues. If the person to whom the order was issued files an appeal with respect to the violation, the abatement period will be extended if suspension of the abatement requirement is ordered in a supersedeas order issued by the EHB under § § 1021.76—1021.78 (relating to supersedeas). In this case, the period permitted for abatement will not end until the date on which the EHB issues a final adjudication with respect to the violation in question or otherwise revokes the supersedeas order.

(d) Each day of a continued violation of the acts, this chapter, a permit, license or an order of the Department, will be considered a separate violation for purposes of this chapter. The cumulative effect of a continued violation will be considered in assessing the penalty for each day of the violation.

(e) If the system described in this section would yield a penalty in excess of the regulatory maximum for a violation, the maximum penalty will be imposed for that

violation. It is the intent of this chapter that separate violations occurring on the same day may each be assessed a penalty of up to the regulatory maximum. When violations may be attributed to two or more persons, a penalty of up to the regulatory maximum may be assessed against each person.

(f) Revision of civil penalty.

(1) The Department, upon its own initiative or upon written request received within 15 days of issuance of an order or cessation order, may revise a civil penalty calculated in accordance with the dollar limits in subsection (b), if the Department determines that, taking into account exceptional factors present in the particular case, the civil penalty is demonstrably unjust. The Department will not reduce the civil penalty on the basis of an argument that a reduction in civil penalty could be used to abate violations of the acts, this chapter, or a condition of a permit or exploration approval. The basis for every revision of a civil penalty shall be fully explained and documented in the records of the case.

(2) If the Department revises the civil penalty, the Department will use the general criteria in subsection (b) to determine the appropriate civil penalty. When the Department has elected to revise a civil penalty, the Department will give a written explanation of the basis for the revised civil penalty to the person to whom the order was issued.

§211.205. Procedures for assessment of civil penalties.

(a) Within 15 days of service of a notice of violation or order, the person to whom it was issued may submit written information about the violation to the Department and to the inspector who issued the order. The Department will consider any information so submitted in determining the facts surrounding the violation and amount of the penalty.

(b) The Department will serve a copy of the civil penalty assessment on the person responsible for a violation. This assessment will be served within the time set forth in the applicable statute of limitations. Service will be by registered or certified mail, or by personal service.

(c) The Department may, upon its own motion, or will, upon written request of the person to whom the assessment was issued, arrange for an informal conference to review the assessment.

(d) Requirements for informal assessment conferences are as follows:

(1) The Department will assign a representative to hold the informal assessment conference. The informal assessment conference will not be governed by requirements for formal adjudicatory hearings, and may be held at any time at the convenience of the parties.

(2) The Department will post notice of the time and place of the informal assessment conference at the regional or district office closest to the mine at least 5

days before the conference. Any person shall have a right to attend and participate in the conference.

(3) The Department will consider all relevant information on the violation. After the informal assessment conference is held the Department may do one of the following:

(i) Settle the issues, in which case a settlement agreement shall be prepared and signed by appropriate representatives of the Department and the person assessed.

(ii) Affirm, raise, lower or vacate the penalty.

(e) The Department representative may terminate the informal assessment conference when the representative determines that the issues cannot be resolved or that the person assessed is not diligently working toward resolution of the issues.

(f) At formal review proceedings under § 211.206 (relating to final action) no evidence as to statements made or evidence produced by one party at an informal assessment conference shall be introduced as evidence by another party or to impeach a witness.

(g) The time for appeal from an assessment will not be stayed by the request for or convening of an assessment conference.

§211.206. Final action.

(a) The person charged with the violation may contest the penalty assessment by filing an appeal with the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB), including with the appeal an amount equal to the assessed penalty—to be held in escrow as provided in subsection (b)—within 30 days from receipt of the assessment or reassessment. Payment under this section shall be cash in the form of certified check, treasurer's check, bank check or cashier's check. In the alternative, a person may file with the appeal an appeal bond in the amount of the assessed civil penalty. The bond shall be executed by a surety who is licensed to do business in this Commonwealth and who is otherwise satisfactory to the Department.

(b) The EHB will transfer the funds submitted under subsection (a) to the Office of the Comptroller of the Department which will hold them in escrow pending completion of the administrative and judicial review process, at which time it will disburse them as provided in § 211.207 (relating to final assessment and payment of penalty).

(c) An appeal from a penalty assessment will not be deemed to be perfected unless a properly executed appeal bond or cash equal to the full amount of the assessed penalty is received by the EHB within 30 days of the appellant's receipt of the assessment or reassessment.

(d) A person may challenge either the fact of the violation or the amount of the penalty once an appeal of that issue has been perfected. In either challenge, the appellant will be bound as to actions of the Department which have become final

under section 4 of the Environmental Hearing Board Act (35 P. S. § 7514). A final action includes a compliance order which has become final, even though the order addresses the same violation for which a civil penalty is assessed.

§211.207. Final assessment and payment of penalty.

(a) If the person to whom an assessment is issued fails to file an appeal as provided in § 211.206 (relating to appeal procedures), the assessment shall become final and the penalty assessed shall become due and payable upon expiration of the time allowed to file the appeal.

(b) If a party requests judicial review of an adjudication of the EHB, the initial penalty assessed shall continue to be held in escrow until completion of the review. Otherwise, subject to subsection (c), the escrowed funds shall be transferred to the Department in payment of the penalty, and the escrow shall end.

(c) If the final decision in the administrative and judicial review process results in an order reducing or eliminating the proposed penalty assessed under this chapter, the Department will, within 30 days of receipt of the order, refund to the person assessed all or part of the escrowed amount, with any interest accumulated by the escrow deposit.

(d) If the final decision in the administrative and judicial review processes results in an order increasing the penalty, the person to whom the notice or order was issued shall pay the difference to the Department within 30 days after the order is mailed to such person.