

Creation of an Apprentice Miner Certification in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

New Miner Classroom Training

- I. 32-hour training; instructor must possess MSHA instructor cards for 30 CFR Part 48 (Training of Underground Miners); must be MSHA approved training plan.
- II. 8-hour introduction to work environment; instructor must possess MSHA instructor cards for underground training.
- III. The new apprentice miner shall receive an apprentice sticker (red in color) that shall be displayed on their hard hat.

On the Job Training Plan

The operator shall submit a training plan to conduct on the job training for new miners.

- I. The coal company operator shall submit to the Department a 30-day training plan indicating what will be covered in supervised training.
- II. Training shall be given by a competent certified miner designated by the mine foreman to conduct training. Training may be conducted by more than one competent certified miner. Training shall be conducted as hands on supervised training.
- III. Training shall be completed in the first 30 working days.
- IV. Training shall be signed off on each topic completed.
- V. A record of the 30-day training shall be maintained on site and be presented at time of exam.

Certified Apprentice Exam

- I. The certified apprentice exam shall be taken within 45 working days.
- II. The written exam shall be given by the mine inspector. The applicant must pass with minimum of 80%.
- III. Test questions shall be general mining questions and site specific. A bank of questions will be created by the Department and a study guide will be provided.
- IV. If the applicant does not successfully pass, the applicant shall retest within 30 working days.
- V. If the applicant fails the exam a second time, they shall retake the MSHA 40-hour underground training.

Certificate of Apprentice Miner

- I. A certificate of completion shall be given to the applicant that has successfully passed the written exam and provides documentation that the 30-day training has been completed.
- II. The apprentice certificate will be similar to a certified miner certificate.
 - a. The certificate must include the name, address, last 4 digits of SSN, the date of certification, and the certificate issuer.
 - b. The certificate shall have a note that states “Expires 18 months after issue date”.
- III. The certificate shall have a seal to be deemed valid.
- IV. A Certified Apprentice sticker (blue in color) shall be given at the time of certificate issuance. The sticker shall be installed on hard hat replacing the red apprentice sticker. This will be beneficial to identify if the new miner is apprentice-certified or not.
- V. The apprentice certification is a privilege, not a right, and can be suspended or revoked at the Department’s discretion.