OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF RECLAMATION

****Policy/Procedure Directive****

Inpection and Enforcement 88-9

Subject: Blaster Certification Verification Procedures

Effective: May 31, 1988

Purpose: To provide guidance and information to Division staff when verifying that blasting operations are being conducted under the supervision of a certified blaster and to rescind the former policy memo on this subject dated July 31, 1986.

On and after August 2, 1986, surface blasting in all Ohio coal mines must be conducted under the supervision of a certified blaster who obtained certification pursuant to OAC 1501:13-9-10,formerly 13-14-05, "Training, Examination, and Certification of Blasters." A non-certified blaster may work on a blasting crew only under the supervision of a certified blaster.

Checking a sampling of blast records has always been a required part of each complete inspection. For blasts detonated on or after August 2, 1986, you must verify that each blast record you review was signed by a blaster certified pursuant to OAC 1501:13-9-10. Periodically a current list of certified blasters will be sent to each district office. Carry this list when you do a complete inspection.

1. If you arrive at the mine site, and the blasting area has already been secured by mine personnel, DO NOT ENTER THE BLASTING AREA until the blast has been detonated and the all-clear signal has been sounded.

2. If the blasting area has not been secured when you arrive, stay clear of the bulk loading truck and avoid tripping over electric or non-electric cap wires, cords, tubing, and connections. If you do trip on a connection, tell the blasting crew immediately so they may check the connection for continuity.

3. Identify yourself to a blast crew member, and ask to speak to the certified blaster.

4. After you have identified the blaster in charge, ask to see his Ohio blaster certificate or wallet card. The words "Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Mines" should appear at the top, and a Mine Examining Board signature (or signatures) should appear at the bottom. The certificate or wallet card should also indicate the blaster's name and certificate number and the words "surface mine blaster" or "blaster." The five-digit certificate number should be 13097 or higher. Any certificate with a lower number was probably issued prior to the new certification program, and is no longer valid for surface blasting in Ohio coal mines.

   Please note OAC 1501: 13-9-10 (E) (1) which states that "a certificate of blaster certification, or a copy notarized to be a true and exact copy of the certificate, shall be carried by a blaster, or shall be on file at the permit area, during blasting operations."

5. Verify that the blaster's name and number, as they appear on the certificate or wallet card, also appear on the current list of certified blasters.

6. A certified blaster and at least one other person must be present at the detonation of a blast. Only the certified blaster may detonate, or give the command to detonate, a blast.

7. If you find that the blasting operation is not being conducted under the supervision of a certified blaster, issue a Notice of Violation to the permittee pursuant to OAC 1501:13-9-06 (A) (5). In the remedial action section, require the permittee to immediately cease all blasting operations until a certified blaster is present to supervise the blasting operation. When you return to your district office call Mike Mann of the Technical Section to discuss the issuance of an order requiring the permittee to show cause why blasting operations should not be suspended or revoked (pursuant to OAC 1501:13-9-06 (A) (6).)

8. If you find a possible error or omission when checking a blaster's name and certificate number on the current certification list, be sure to call Mike Mann for verification <u>before</u> you take any enforcement action.

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