



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
PERCY A. MILLER, JR., COMMISSIONER

R U L E S A N D R E G U L A T I O N S

governing

CLASSIFICATION GRADES FOR BLASTERS PERMITS

Bureau of Engineering and Safety
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Trenton, New Jersey

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SECTION 1 - PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 **PURPOSE.** It is the purpose of these rules and regulations to provide minimum standards for safety to life, limb and property for the general public welfare and for safe practices in the use of explosives for blasting purposes.
- 1.2 **SCOPE.** These rules and regulations shall apply to the use of explosives for blasting purposes including the loading of the hole with explosives, the firing of the shot or the detonation of explosives.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

2.1 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

- 2.1.1 *Approved* - shall mean approved by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry or his authorized representative.
- 2.1.2 *Commissioner* - shall mean the Commissioner of Labor and Industry of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Industry or his authorized representative.
- 2.1.3 *Department* - shall mean the New Jersey Department of Labor and Industry.
- 2.1.4 *Division* - shall mean the Division of Labor of the Department.
- 2.1.5 *Bureau* - shall mean the Bureau of Engineering and Safety of the Division.
- 2.1.6 *Deputy Director* - shall mean the deputy director in charge of the Bureau.
- 2.1.7 *Effective date* - the date indicated on the cover on which these rules and regulations become effective.
- 2.1.8 *Existing* - prior to the effective date.
- 2.1.9 *Shall* - where used, shall mean a mandatory requirement.
- 2.1.10 *Should* - shall mean an advisory or recommended practice recognized as satisfactory to the Department.
- 2.1.11 *Singular-Plural* - the singular shall mean the plural and the plural the singular.
- 2.1.12 *Adequately, effective, securely* - shall mean satisfactory conditions subject to determination by the Commissioner.

2.2 SPECIAL DEFINITIONS

- 2.2.1 *Blast area* - the area included within a distance of 35 feet from the bore holes measured in all directions.
- 2.2.2 *Blaster* - the person in possession of a valid state permit to use explosives for blasting purposes.
- 2.2.3 *Block-holing* - the fragmentation of boulders through the firing of a small quantity of explosives that has been loaded in a small diameter borehole.
- 2.2.4 *Mud capping (adobe blasting; dobying)* - the firing of a quantity of explosives on or against a rock, boulder, or other object without confining the explosives in a bore hole.
- 2.2.5 *Primary blasting* - extraction of a mineral volume from the original natural body or bed by the use of explosives in open pit, side hill, through cut, tunnel and shaft construction; primary blasting shall include toe and seam shooting.
- 2.2.6 *Secondary blasting* - the reduction of oversize material by the use of explosives to facilitate shovel operations.

SECTION 3 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 3.1 **RESPONSIBILITY OF OPERATOR.** The operator of every project shall use every reasonable precaution to provide for the safety of all employees on the project and of such other persons who may be legally entitled to be on such project and it shall be the duty of such operator to comply with the provisions of these rules and regulations.
- 3.2 **RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYEES.** Every employee shall observe all the provisions of these rules and regulations which directly concern or affect his conduct and no person having supervision over employees shall willfully permit a violation of these rules and regulations.
- 3.3 **STATE EXPLOSIVES LAW.** Every project operator shall comply with all of the provisions governing storage, sale, transportation and use of explosives.
- 3.4 **RESPONSIBILITY OF BLASTER**
 - 3.4.1 No person other than the blaster shall fire any shots or detonate any explosives except as otherwise provided by law.
 - 3.4.2 The blaster shall not engage in blasting operations other than those allowed by the limitations of his valid permit.
 - 3.4.3 The blaster shall use every reasonable precaution to provide for safety to life, limb and property while he is engaged in his duties in, about or in connection with explosives for blasting purposes and such blaster shall comply with all other provisions of these rules and regulations.
 - 3.4.4 The handling of explosives shall be confined to persons who are at least twenty-one years of age and shall only do such handling under the direction of a blaster who is in possession of a valid permit to use explosives - excepting only operations relating to the manufacture, transport or conveying of explosives; provided that no person under eighteen years of age shall be employed, permitted or suffered to work in, about or in connection with the transportation or use of explosives; and provided further,

that explosives may be used for blasting purposes by a miner in underground mining operations without requiring a permit to use explosives, if the blasting operations are under the supervision of a blaster in possession of a valid permit.

- 3.5 MUD CAPPING. Mud capping shall be expressly and completely prohibited wherever explosives are used for blasting purposes above ground in this state excepting only where written approval has been issued by the Commissioner.

SECTION 4 - PERMIT APPLICATION

- 4.1 Permit application forms shall be furnished by the Commissioner upon request.
- 4.2 The applicant for a permit shall at his own expense furnish the Commissioner with information and data as required by the application form.
- 4.3 Executed application forms shall be accompanied by a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) the check being made payable to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

SECTION 5 - INVESTIGATION

- 5.1 Upon receipt of an application for a permit to use explosives and before the permit is issued, the Commission shall examine, or cause to be examined, the qualifications of the applicant to use explosives. Such examination may be waived at the direction of the Commissioner upon application for succeeding permits.
- 5.2 The minimum qualifications shall be as follows:
- 5.2.1 Age shall be at least twenty-one years.
- 5.2.2 A reasonable understanding of the English language and ability to answer properly such relevant questions as may be asked him upon his examination, which may be a written examination,
- 5.2.3 Furnish satisfactory evidence of experience in using explosives and be familiar with the general requirements of this act and the pertinent rules and regulations issued thereunder.

SECTION 6 - BLASTING PERMIT CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 The following grades and sub-grades are established for the issuance of permits to use explosives for blasting purposes.

BLASTER PERMIT CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

Grade	Sub-Grade	Description	Remarks
A	none	<i>Unlimited</i>	Persons entitled to a Grade A Blaster's permit shall be especially qualified and experienced in the use of explosives and shall be permitted to conduct all types of blasting in the state.
B		<i>Quarries and Open Pits</i>	
	(1)	All primary and secondary blasting	
	(2)	Only limited primary and secondary blasting	Grade B(2) permits are restricted to (a) limited primary blasting consisting of snakeholing, toe and seam shooting, and random blasting required in preparation for a primary blast and (b) secondary blasting consisting of a blockholing and other miscellaneous shots to prepare material for further processing or use.
C	none	<i>Underground Mines</i>	All primary and secondary blasting.
D		<i>Tunnels</i>	
	(1)	All primary and secondary blasting	
	(2)	Secondary blasting only	

Grade	Sub-Grade	Description	Remarks
E		<i>General Construction</i>	Excepting the kind of blasting covered by Grades F and G, Grade E permits embrace blasting on construction projects within the limitations set forth for the several subdivisions; includes all ditch blasting.
	(1)		All general construction blasting including primary and secondary blasting.
	(2)		All general construction blasting including secondary blasting and excluding primary blasting where more than a total of 50 pounds of explosives per shot is involved.
	(3)		All general construction blasting including secondary blasting and excluding primary blasting where more than 10 pounds of explosives is involved.
F	none	<i>Foundations and Trenches</i>	Grade F permits cover foundation and trench blasting where skill is required because of the potential hazards involved in any municipality because of a concentration of population or places of employment, or both.
G	none	<i>Demolition</i>	Grade G permits are equivalent to special permits because of the need for specialized skill and experience required in demolition blasting. No other grade or permit, except a Grade A permit, entitles the holder to do demolition blasting.
H		<i>Agriculture (not including limited agricultural permits)</i>	
	(1)	General	Grade H(1) permits include ditch blasting on farms where not more than 50 pounds of explosives are used. (See Section 41 of the State Explosives Law for further particulars regarding limited agricultural permits).
	(2)	Limited	Grade H(2) permits are limited to not more than 10 pounds of explosives per shot.
I	none	<i>Experimental</i>	Grade I permits are intended to cover the use of explosives for blasting purposes in connection with tests, research and related activities but neither including such work when performed by employees of explosives manufacturers whose places of business require registration under N. J. Revised Statutes Title 34 nor the use of explosives in connection with tests, research and related activities.
J	none	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	Grade J permits limited quantity of explosives per shot to not more than five pounds and are intended to cover the use of explosives for blasting purposes where neither special hazards are involved nor unusual degree of skill is required.