

Provincial Mine Rescue Examination

Background

Regulatory oversight for British Columbia Provincial Mine Rescue examination for certification has traditionally been conducted by qualified Inspectors of Mines within the Office of the Chief Inspector.

Due to a high demand for this service and limited resources for mine rescue certification across the province, the Chief Inspector of Mines (CIM) needs to consider alternative strategies to meet the needs for certification in a timely manner.

As an interim measure, utilizing expertise and commitments to leading Mine Rescue practises in BC existing across the industry, the CIM will now consider accepting industry-represented mine rescue examiners, as appointed by a mine manager. This may include third parties who can be nominated by a mine manager to the CIM for similar consideration.

Interim Mine Rescue Examiner Project

This interim project is effective from October 27, 2025 until March 31, 2026 at which time, it will be reviewed for efficacy.

The CIM will consider the following minimum requirements. Qualified examiners must:

- Possess a current BC Mine Rescue certification,
- Hold a current British Columbia Mine Supervisor certificate,
- Hold a valid Intermediate First Aid and Transportation Endorsement certification or higher,
- Have minimum five years of mine rescue or equivalent rescue experience,
- Have minimum three years related mining experience,
- Have completed Incident Command System (ICS) 100,
- Obtain a formalized endorsement, summarizing this information as validated and nominated by the Mine Manager as the appointed examiner, submitted to the CIM,
- Appointments are mine site specific.

Interim Examiner responsibilities

Once approved as an interim examiner, they will be required to:

- Maintain all credentials as outlined above,
- Provide five days of notice to an inspector regarding an upcoming mine rescue examination,
- Keep all invigilation records in a file available on the request of an inspector, and
- Upon completion of examination, submit a signed document along with the Mine Rescue certification application form listing the names, contact details and passing grade of successful candidates, to an inspector for entry into the certificate issuance, confirming the date of successful examination.

The BC Mine Safety Association executive will be provided with a copy of a Ministry exam that can be used for examination purposes.

Summary

Effective October 27, 2025, the mining industry in BC has the possibility of two options to arrange for mine rescue examination. Mine managers may:

1. Submit a formal request to the CIM, to nominate a person as an interim examiner based on the minimum referenced criteria, and their formal recommendation to appoint such person, or
2. Contact the Ministry to arrange for an examination with an Inspector of Mines.

This will take effect October 27, 2025.



Hermanus Henning

Chief Inspector of Mines