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Mine Supervisor Certification – Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is the Mine Supervisor Certification?

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) completed a review, with First Nations, industry and labour, of specific portions of the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia (the Code). As a result of the review and consensus recommendations from all parties, new provisions came into force February 2017.

One of the new provisions added to the Code was the reintroduction of a Supervisor's Certification for any supervisor on a mine site to ensure a common understanding of the Code, to encourage worker safety and to ensure supervisors on a mine site are aware of their responsibilities under the Code.

2. When do I have to have my certification by?

This requirement came into force on June 1, 2018.

3. Who has to have their Mine Supervisor Certification?

The provision requires that anyone supervising six or fewer people in open pit mining activities or any number of employees on exploration sites or in other areas of a mine, such as a mill, tailings storage facility, lab or maintenance area or shop, must complete their Supervisor's Certification. This provision applies to all mine sites in the province including major mines, exploration sites, sand and gravel and placer operations and quarries.

Some examples below:

- A supervisor who supervises any number of employees on an exploration site will need a Mine Supervisor certification.
- A supervisor on a sand and gravel operation who supervises 10 employees in mining activities will need a Shiftboss certification.
- A supervisor at a major mine who supervises 20 employees in a maintenance shop will need a Mine Supervisor Certification.
- A supervisor on a small mining operation who supervises 5 employees in mining activities will need a Mine Supervisor Certification.
- One person on a placer site that does mechanical surface disturbance will need a Mine Supervisor Certification.

4. If I have my Shiftboss certification – do I need a Mine Supervisor Certificate?

No, if you have a valid Shiftboss certification, you do not need a Mine Supervisor Certificate.

5. Where do I go to register for the online program?

The online program is available through the following websites:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining/health-safety/certifications>

Or through OpenSchool BC
<https://www.openschool.bc.ca/online/>

6. What do I do if I have technical issues with the online program?

Please contact OSBC Online support for assistance at OSBC.Online@gov.bc.ca

7. What do I do if I forget my UserID or password?

The OpenSchool BC login page will guide you through the UserID and password recovery process.
<https://mytraining.openschool.bc.ca/login/index.php>

8. What is the purpose of the Mine Supervisor Certification?

The certification was initiated and created to develop and enhance a working knowledge and enable navigation of the code and to test awareness of regulatory responsibilities as a Supervisor in mines in BC

9. Once I complete the certification, does this mean that I have the skills to be a Mine Supervisor on an active mine site?

The certification is not intended to replace or provide technical training on health and safety procedures, technical knowledge or ability. Each mine must provide their own training program tailored to their site.

10. Are there specific certification exams for each area of the mining industry?

The Mines Supervisor Certification is deliberately not tailored to any specialization. Not every Part of the Code may be in regular use at every type of mining operation but all Parts of the Code are applicable to every mine site depending on the situation.

The certification is intended to be transferrable from region to region, and from one mine type to another.

For example: If a supervisor with a valid Certification works in a gravel quarry, and then goes on to work in exploration, their Mines Supervisor Certificate is transferable with them.

11. Who put together the Mine Supervisor Certification?

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, along with OpenSchool BC developed the certification. However, the framework for the certification was developed with industry and stakeholder input, and with participation from major mines, quarries, sand and gravel, exploration and placer.

12. How long is the certification program?

The exam has 100 questions and no two exams will be the same.

Pilot testing indicated it took, on average, four hours to complete (but that may increase or decrease depending on your knowledge of the Code), with the shortest being 1.5 hours and the longest being six hours.

The certification program is active for each registrant for six weeks from the date of registration – meaning you can take as long or as little time as you like to complete

13. What is the passing grade?

The passing grade is 80% and each student gets three tries to pass. The exam is fully open book and you may stop and start the exam as many times as you like.

14. How much is the certification program and will I have to take it again? How come it is not free like other certifications?

The Mine Supervisor Certification is \$100 and is valid for five years.

Funds recovered from the certification program will support subscription costs for use of the online software and further development and updating of the certification programs.

15. Is it possible to purchase multiple seats for my employees?

Yes, the system allows a bulk buy. Once the purchase is complete, a unique link will be generated to distribute to your employees so they can complete their registration and certification on their own.

16. I have taken the program from the College of the Rockies previously, is this program the same as the Mine Supervisor?

No, the College of the Rockies program is not the same as the Code required Mine Supervisor Certification. You must obtain the government certification. However, if you have completed their program, it will definitely help you successfully complete the exam.

17. What about the other certifications that EMLI offers?

EMLI recently updated the BC Mines Blaster Certifications, which are available for registration online via OpenSchool BC starting July 4, 2022. EMLI is currently working to modernize and update other certifications such as Shiftboss and Fireboss. A small fee (\$100) will be charged once they have been updated to cover the cost to administer and continue to update those certifications.

18. What do I do if I lose or misplace my certificate?

Crown Publications can re-print and mail you a new certificate and wallet card. A \$10 fee for Mine Supervisor Certificates and a \$20 fee for a BC Mines Blaster Certificates and secure ID cards is charged to cover printing, shipping and handling.

Prior to contacting Crown Publications to submit your order, please ensure that your mailing address is up-to-date in your student record by contacting the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation at Mine.Certifications@gov.bc.ca or (833) 978-9798.

When you are ready to order your certificate please contact Crown Publications (note: email requests are preferred).

Crown Publications, Queen's Printer

Hours of operation: Monday to Friday 7:30 to 4:30

Email: mines.certificate.reprint@gov.bc.ca

Toll-Free: 1 (800) 663-6105

Victoria: (250) 387-6409