

Frequently Asked Questions: Free Miner Certificate (FMC)

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1. Where can I get an Individual, Corporate, or Partnership Free Miner Certificate?

If this is the first-time you have applied for a Free Miner Certificate (FMC), you can go to any [Mineral Titles Branch](#) office, [Service BC \(Government Agent\)](#) office or [FrontCounter BC](#) office and fill out the applicable FMC form. More information on FMCs is found on the [FMC page](#) on the mineral titles website.

Alternatively, you can print a copy of the individual or corporate [FMC form](#) and mail in your completed application. Send your form along with a cheque in the amount of \$25.00 for an individual, or \$500.00 for a company, made payable to the “Minister of Finance”, to:

[Mineral Titles Branch](#)
[300-865 Hornby Street](#)
[Vancouver, B.C.](#)
[V6Z 2G3](#)

If your application and fees are accepted, you will be issued an FMC and client number.

In addition to applying for an FMC, you will also need a business BCeID account. It is highly recommended that you apply for a business BCeID first as you will not be able to access MTO without it. Please review our FAQ's on [applying for a business BCeID](#).

If you are attempting to renew your existing FMC, please see question 7 below. For more information, see [Information Update #1 - Free Miner Certificate](#).

2. I had a Free Miner Certificate 20 years ago. Do I need to get a new one?

Visit any [Mineral Titles Branch](#), [Service BC \(Government Agent\)](#) or [FrontCounter BC](#) office or call the Mineral Titles Branch helpdesk, 1-866-616-4999, to have a staff member verify whether you are in the Mineral Titles Online (MTO) registry.

If you are in the MTO registry, you simply need to renew your FMC online. You will need a [Business BCeID](#) (if you do not already have one).

If you are not listed in the MTO registry, you will need to apply as a new client by filling out the appropriate FMC form. (See "[Where can I get an Individual or Corporate Free Miner Certificate?](#)" for more information).

3. I used to have an FMC in the past but cannot find it in MTO.

You can use [MTO's search capabilities](#) to find your client number.

- Click on the '[Search for Mineral / Placer / Coal Titles](#)'
- Enter your name into the 'Owner Name' field
- Ensure the blue radio button beside 'Owner Name' is selected
- Click 'Next'

It may be recommended to search just on your last name in case you go by varying versions on your first name (ex. Bob / Robert). To do this, use the asterisk '*' as a wildcard. For example 'Smith*' would return all the clients with a last name starting with Smith (Smith, Smithers, Smithson etc.). Once you locate your name, click on the 'Client Details' link to determine your Client Number ID.

You will need a Business BCeID to logon to MTO.

[Please review our FAQ's for BCeID.](#)

To renew your FMC, please review the following FAQ.

[How do I renew my Free Miner Certificate?](#)

4. Where can I get a copy of my Free Miner Certificate (FMC)?

You can only print a copy of your FMC that is currently in effect. If you renewed your FMC and did not print a copy of the renewal, you must wait until your renewed FMC takes effect before you can print a copy of it.

You are able to print off your current FMC from MTO.

- Log on to MTO with your BCeID
- Select the "Reports" tab
- Next, click on the link to “FMC Client's current/latest certificate”
- Your current FMC, displaying the client name, client number and address, as well as FMC issue date, valid from date and expiry date can then be printed.
- You will only be able to print your current FMC. If you renew your FMC before it has expired, and forget to print a copy, you will be able to print it through the reports tab when it becomes valid.

5. How do I renew my Free Miner Certificate?

You must renew your FMC online using Mineral Titles Online (MTO) at www.mtonline.gov.bc.ca. Logon to MTO with your Business BCeID and Password, then click on the 'FMC Client' tab. From there you will click on the 'FMC renewal' hyperlink and follow the screens through to completion. Please see the [MTO Help Guide](#) for further instructions.

6. How do I find out if my FMC has been renewed or not?

You can search the MTO registry to find out if you, or your agent, have already renewed your FMC. For step by step instructions, please review our [help documents](#). MTO will advise you if you currently have a valid FMC or not and display effect date of your current and future FMCs if it has already been renewed. You cannot print future FMCs that are not yet in effect.

7. I am now a senior, how do I renew my FMC so I do not get charged \$25.00?

If you have turned **65 years of age** since the last renewal of your FMC, **STOP** and do not continue with the online renewal. You are required to submit a completed [FMC application form](#) to your local [Service BC](#) office, [FrontCounter BC](#) office or [Mineral Titles](#) office. The completed form will allow staff to update your status in the Mineral Titles Online (MTO) registry from individual to senior and renew your FMC for you. After the change in your FMC status, you will be able to apply online for future renewals yourself.

8. Can I purchase a Free Miner Certificate for more than one year?

No. A free miner certificate is issued for a maximum 12 month term which begins with the issuance date and ending on the day immediate before this date next year. For more information, see [Information Update #1 - Free Miner Certificate](#).

9. The name of my company has changed. How do I get the name changed on my Free Miner Certificate and in the mineral titles registry?

You cannot change the name of your company yourself in Mineral Titles Online (MTO). You will need to obtain a copy of the “Change of Name certificate” issued by the BC [Corporate Registry](#).

You can email the change of name certificate to Mineral.Titles@gov.bc.ca or fax it to the Mineral Titles Branch office at (604) 660-2653.

Upon receipt of a change of name certificate, the Mineral Titles office will update your company name in the MTO registry. This change will be reflected on your free miner certificate and on any valid titles that your company holds.

10. My company has amalgamated with another company. What procedures and or documents do I need to submit in order to change all my mineral titles to the current company?

In a nutshell, a new FMC and Business BCeID must be acquired by the new amalgamated company and all good-standing mineral titles from the pre-amalgamated companies must be transferred by the Mineral Titles Branch to the new company.

When two or more companies amalgamate, the amalgamated corporation is a new entity and must acquire a new free miner certificate. The free miner certificate held by any of the former corporations is deemed invalid upon amalgamation and therefore cannot be renewed or utilized. This is effective even if the amalgamated corporation keeps the same name as one of the former corporations.

Obtain a copy of the [amalgamation certificate issued by the BC Corporate registry](#) and submit it along with a new corporate free miner certificate (FMC) application for the new amalgamated company to the [Mineral Titles Branch Office in Vancouver or Victoria](#). This fee for a new corporate FMC is \$500, payable by cash or cheque.

Upon receipt of the amalgamation certificate and new FMC application form, the Mineral Titles office will issue a FMC to the new amalgamated company and will transfer any existing valid titles held by the amalgamating companies to the FMC of the new amalgamated company.

Note: The new company will require a Business BCeID in the new company's name to be used in conjunction with the new free miner certificate. Contact www.BCeID.ca to learn how to manage any existing BCeID accounts and User ID's from the amalgamating companies to update/create a new BCeID account for the new amalgamated company.

11. Can a foreign National (non-resident in Canada) hold a FMC and own claims in BC?

The *Mineral Tenure Act* and Regulations govern the acquisition and maintenance of mineral titles in the Province of British Columbia. In order to acquire mineral titles in British Columbia you must be a free miner. [Section 8](#) of the Act set out the conditions for who can acquire a free miner certificate (FMC). Please refer to [Section 8 of the Mineral Tenure Act](#) and [Information Update No. 1 – Free Miner Certificate](#) for more information.

To acquire or renew a FMC, a person must meet the following qualifications:

For an individual:

- You are ordinarily a resident of Canada for not less than 183 days in each calendar year, or you are authorized by the federal government of Canada to work in Canada (proof of authorization must be provided).

For a company:

- A company must be registered provincially or extra-provincially under the *Business Corporation Act* of British Columbia, or be a trust company registered under the *Financial Institutions Act* of BC, an insurer licensed under the *Insurance Act* of BC, or a chartered bank.

For a partnership:

- A partnership must be register with the BC Corporate registry.

A Canadian citizen, regardless of where he/she resides, is authorized to work in Canada by virtue of their citizenship.

12. Is there a list of people to hire to help me with my MTO registrations?

Mineral Titles Branch does not maintain a list of individuals who work as an agent for other free miners. You may wish to try contacting a regional mining association to see if they are aware of individuals who will work as an agent and who can provide help with MTO work. Examples of some mining associations are:

- Association of Mineral exploration BC (AMEBC);
- Cariboo Mining Association (CMA);
- Kamloops Exploration Group (KEG);
- Prince George Exploration Group (PEG);
- East Kootenay Chamber of Mines (EKCM);
- Chamber of Mines Eastern BC (CMEBC);
- Boundary Mining Association (BMA); and
- Smithers Exploration Group (SEG).