

Third-Party Blaster's Continuing Education Course Evaluation Guidelines

Commonwealth regulations require that a licensed blaster have at least 8 hours of relevant continuing education during the three-year life of their current license in order to qualify for license renewal. This worksheet is intended to provide the Department with internal consistency in evaluating a particular training resource brought to us for consideration as an accepted third-party training option. Currently, the Department maintains a list of accepted third-party training resources, and the Department accepts attendance at the bi-annual blaster's conference held in State College, PA. Other reasonably similar conference trainings may be accepted as well. Annual MSHA general refresher trainings are generally not acceptable, however a few customized specifically to blasting operations have been accepted. Such training must demonstrably cover suitable material specifically pertaining to blasting.

Evaluation Criteria

To be considered acceptable, a training program must include training on any 7 of the 14 generalized training topics that are a part of the PA Blaster's Training & Certification Classes (denoted by * in the list below), as well as any number of additional specialized training topics. A section pertaining specifically to PA regulations is recommended but is not required.

Additional specialized training topics could include specialized blasting techniques (e.g. demolition, underwater, rappelling to trim road cuts) or other materials specifically relevant to blasting such as best practices, explosive propagation theory, techniques, studies, business models, insurance requirements, public relations, etc. Each training program and training program section will be considered on its own merits. If a program does not qualify in the opinion of the Department, the provider will be notified and may revise their plan for reconsideration.

Training Topic	Hours
Compliance with Regulations (preferably PA regs)*	
Blaster' Math*	
Storage & Transportation*	
Explosives Products*	
Initiation Systems*	
Adverse Effects – General*	
Flyrock*	
Noxious Fumes*	
Blast Design*	
Blasting Records*	
Blasting Permits*	
Blast Site Safety & Security*	
Misfires*	
Monitoring (Seismographs)*	
Specialized Blasting Topic	
Specialized Blasting Topic	
Other Related Topic	
Other Related Topic	
Other Related Topic	
Other Related Topic	
Total hours:	

Program must include 7 of these topics.

Must = 8 hours

Items denoted with a * indicate a topic that is part of PA Blaster's Training & Certification Class.

A syllabus or course agenda along with a certificate of course completion is needed to demonstrate proof of completed requirements. Courses may be periodically audited by the Department.