



BLASTER

GENERAL CONDITIONS

2016.12

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INTRODUCTION

The Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Division has the responsibility for:

- Development and maintenance of Blaster training standards
- Development, maintenance, and administration of Blaster Examinations
- Certification of Blasters

1. DEFINITIONS

Definitions for the purpose of this document shall be as follows:

- 1.1 Approved or Prescribed Program – A program that will have a theoretical and practical content acceptable to the Provincial Advisory Committee, and the Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Division.
- 1.2 Structure – Any fabricated object that is used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy. Includes, but is not limited to, buildings, towers, antennas, dams, walls, tanks, and silos.

2. ENTRANCE

- 2.1 Each candidate must have successfully completed a high school program or equivalent. Mature students, at the discretion of the Director of Apprenticeship and Trades Certification, may be accepted. A mature student is defined as one who has reached the age of 19 and who can demonstrate the ability and the interest to complete the requirements for certification.

3. CLASSIFICATION

- 2.0 Certificates are classified as:
 - Blaster – Level I
 - Blaster—Level II
 - Blaster – Level III

4. EXAMINATION

4.1 GUIDELINES

- 4.1.1 Applications for Blaster examinations can be obtained from any office of the Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Division or online at <http://www.gov.nl.ca/atcd/>.
- 4.1.2 Applications for examination/certification for level 1, 2 or 3 will include the journal summary form from the blaster field journal.
- 4.1.3 Applications shall have all pertinent information included as outlined on the application or it will be returned.
- 4.1.4 Approval to write Blaster examinations is subject to review from the Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Division.
- 4.1.5 Candidates are requested to notify the Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Division, **two weeks** prior to writing dates if, for some reason beyond their control, they have to cancel their application.
- 4.1.6 All examinations require a pass mark of seventy percent (70%)
- 4.1.7 An applicant who does not achieve the pass mark on a certification exam, but achieves at least 50%, shall be permitted to rewrite the exam after 30 days.
- 4.1.8 An applicant who does not achieve a mark of at least 50% will be required to participate in refresher training before being allowed to rewrite the exam. Training will be arranged at a location and time as determined by the department.
- 4.1.9 The following rules will govern the administration of level 1 and 2 exams:
 - Show photo ID to exam invigilator before exam begins.
 - Do not bring any materials into the room, or remove any materials from the room.
 - Give outerwear (hats, coats, backpacks, purses), cell phones, iPods, and any other electronic devices to exam invigilator before exam begins.

- Use only pencils, calculators, and scrap paper provided by exam invigilator.
- Not communicate with or disrupt other candidates.
- Ask exam invigilator for approval to leave exam room and only in the case of an emergency.
- Candidates shall return all examinations, score sheets, working or scrap material to the examiner/invigilator before leaving the exam room.

4.1.10 For violation of exam rules, candidates will be subject to penalties as determined by the department.

4.1.11 A candidate requesting appeals of Application for Examination or Certification must submit a request in writing to the Director of the Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Division.

5. CERTIFICATION

5.1 LEVEL 1 INTERNSHIP MODEL (offered only during transition period)

During the transition from an apprenticeable trade to a designated occupation, an internship model will be offered for existing Blaster Helpers with occupational hours and currently registered apprentices. Approved individuals:

- 5.1.1 Will be given credit in the internship for their previous hours of experience;
- 5.1.2 Will participate in a 6 week (240 hour) approved training program in the occupation, followed by an internship period working under the supervision of a certified blaster.
- 5.1.3 Will, upon accumulating a total of 1000 hours of occupational experience - which includes the 240 hours of designated training - be eligible to challenge the Level 1 certification exam.
- 5.1.4 An initial certificate of competency will be issued to successful candidates for a period of between 1 and 2 years, depending on date of issue.

5.2 LEVEL I

- 5.2.1 A candidate for certification as a Blaster Level I shall be in completion of a 12-week (360-hour) prescribed plan of training for level I blasters. This is achieved through formal schooling; and
- 5.2.2 Shall have two hundred and forty (240) hours of practical experience and have completed two (2) blasts during the level 1 training program. Practical experience must be verified by a level III blaster who is designated as an approved instructor at an approved training facility, using the NL Blaster Field Journal; and
- 5.2.3 Shall complete an application for examination/certification; and
- 5.2.4 Shall complete a level I certification exam, at a time designated by the department
- 5.2.5 An initial certificate of competency will be issued to successful candidates for a period of between 4 and 5 years, depending on date of issue

5.3 LEVEL II

- 5.3.1 A candidate for certification as a Blaster Level II shall hold a Blasters Certificate Level I; and
- 5.3.2 Shall have one thousand (1000) hours of practical experience as a Certified Blaster Level I. Experience must be verified by the certified blaster and the employer, using the NL Blaster Field Journal; and
- 5.3.3 Shall have completed two (2) blasts within 1000M of an occupied structure under the supervision of a certified Level II or higher blaster; and
- 5.3.4 Shall complete an application for examination/certification; and
- 5.3.5 Shall complete a level II certification exam, at a time designated by the department
- 5.3.6 An initial certificate of competency will be issued to successful candidates for a period of between 4 and 5 years, depending on date of issue

5.4 LEVEL III

- 5.4.1 A candidate for certification as a Blaster Level III shall hold a Blaster Certificate Level II; and;
- 5.4.2 Shall have one thousand (1000) hours of practical experience as a Certified Blaster Level II. Experience must be verified by the certified blaster and the employer using the NL Blaster Field Journal; and
- 5.4.3 Shall have Five (5) blasts within 30M of an occupied structure under the Supervision of a certified level III blaster;
- 5.4.4 Shall complete an application for examination/certification.
- 5.4.5 An initial certificate of competency will be issued to successful candidates for a period of between 4 and 5 years, depending on date of issue.

6. RESTRICTIONS

6.1 LEVEL I

- 6.1.1 No blasting within a distance of 1000M of any occupied structure.
- 6.1.2 No blasting within a distance of 500M of any unoccupied structure.

6.2 LEVEL II

- 6.2.1 No blasting within a distance of 30M of any structure.

6.3 LEVEL III

- 6.3.1 No restrictions.

7. CERTIFICATE RENEWALS

- 7.1 A certificate of competency is renewable for a five (5) year period from the date of expiry. Certification may be extended for up to (1) one additional year at the discretion of the Director. Blasters will be required

to complete a safety seminar as designated by the department before a renewal is granted.

- 7.2 Certified Blasters will be notified by the department of the next available safety seminar in their year of expiry.

8. CERTIFICATE RECOGNITION FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- 8.1 A person employed in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador who holds any current Blasters Certification issued by another approved jurisdiction, may obtain a letter of equivalency for an equal certification level, without examination, subject to review and approval by the Director.

- 8.2 Approved jurisdictions are:

- Nova Scotia
- New Brunswick
- Quebec
- Ontario

9. APPROVED TRAINING

- 9.1 The department will designate, develop, and maintain approved plan(s) of training for Level 1 certification.
- 9.2 The department will designate, develop and maintain approved training standards for safety seminars necessary for certification renewal at all levels.

10. INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

- 10.1 Instructors in an approved training program are required to have a current Newfoundland and Labrador Level III Blaster certification.
- 10.2 Instructional assistants in an approved training program are required to have a minimum Newfoundland and Labrador Level II Blaster certification.

11. BLASTER FIELD JOURNAL

- 11.1 All intern or certified Blasters are required to use and maintain a Blasters Field Journal as identified by the department. The journal is to be used as directed by the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2012 under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (O.C. 2012-005)*.

12. BLASTER SAFETY SEMINAR

- 12.1 All Blasters are required to participate in a Blaster Safety Seminar as designated by the department, at certificate renewal or at such time as directed by the department or Occupational Health and Safety under the authority of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2012 under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (O.C. 2012-005)*.