



DEP

Blasting Requirements for Non-Coal Quarry Operations

What Regulations Apply to Non-Coal Quarry Blasting and Why?

Regulations that Apply to Blasting

- Chapter 77 – Non-Coal Mining
- Chapter 123 – Dust Contaminants
- Chapter 209a – Surface Mining Safety Regulations
- Chapter 210 – Blaster Licenses
- Chapter 211 - Storage, Handling and Use of Explosives
- PA Statute 73 - Explosives Use Regulation Law
- Noncoal Surface Mining Conservation & Reclamation Act (NCSMCRA)
- Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs)
- Special Conditions in the Mining Permit itself

Chapter 77 – Noncoal Mining

- **77.453** - Requirements for a blasting plan application and how the applicant intends to comply with the plan. Person responsible for blasting operations at a blasting site shall be familiar with the blasting plan and site-specific performance standards.
- **77.561 – 77.565** - Use of Explosives
 - 77.561 – General Requirements
 - 77.562 – Preblasting Surveys
 - 77.563 – Public Notice of Blasting Schedules
 - 77.564 – Surface Blasting Requirements
 - 77.565 – Records of Blasting Operations

Chapter 209a – Surface Mining Safety Regulations

- 209a.42 – Accident Reporting

Chapter 210 - Type of License Needed

Chapter 211 - Storage, Handling and Use of Explosives

- Chapter 77 references
- In most cases is more stringent than mining regulations (Chapter 77)

P.S. 73 – Blasting Law

Surface Mining Permit Special Conditions

- Specific requirement in addition to the regulation that is posted in mining permit

Chapter 77 VS. Chapter 211 VS. Special Conditions

Which One Do I Comply With??

The more **Stringent** requirement must be complied with!

Who is responsible for blasting compliance onsite?

- Licensed Blaster-in-Charge
- Operator/Permittee

When Things Go Wrong! Then What?



Self Reporting Requirements

- Flyrock

- Rock, overburden material or debris that leaves the permitted site and/or ejected beyond the secured blast area.
- Flyrock incidents are to be reported within 4hrs. of incident to the Department.
- Usually results in blasting cessation and compliance action.

- Exceedance of Allowable Structural Damage Limits

- Exceeding the ground vibration and air overpressure limits.
- Must be reported within 24 hrs. of incident to the Department.
- Can result in blasting cessation and compliance action.

Self Reporting Requirements

- Injury and/or Accident

- Must be reported within 1hr. of incident to the Department.
- Cessation and compliance action may be pending upon completion of the investigation of the accident.

- Misfires

- Must be reported within 24hrs. of the incident to the Department.
- If reported, violations are not cited.

Self reporting of any known blasting violation is recommended!

- Why
 - Speed of compliance
 - Allows for work to continue sooner
 - Creates overall safer conditions
 - May assist in lowering penalty amounts (if applied)
 - Result in shorter blaster suspensions (if applied)
- Who
 - Operator
 - Blaster-in-charge on behalf of the operator

Who should I report a violation or incident to?

- Blasting and Explosives Inspector
- Surface Mining Conservation Inspector (SMCI)
- District Mining Office

Corrective Action

- If compliance action and/or civil penalty is required, it is issued to the operator.
 - Corrective action plans must be submitted by the operator/permittee. The blasting contractor can prepare the corrective action for the operator.
 - The corrective action plan is the operator's, regardless of who the blasting contractor is, all blasting will comply with approved blasting plans and any action plans.
 - The blaster-in-charge is usually cited a NOV which is recorded within our system for review.

Blast Revisions, Corrections & Variances

- Revisions & Corrections

- Blast Plan (Module 16)

- If adding blasting to a permit without approved blasting activity it is a major permit correction, if only revising an existing blast plan, it is a minor revision.
 - Operator is only permitted to submit a revision for anything that is in the permit.
 - A revised/submitted blast plan must be completed and signed by a licensed blaster.
 - To remove a special condition from a permit is also a revision and must be submitted to the Department for review. Questions pertaining to this should be directed to the permitting staff at the District Mining Office.
 - Revisions and corrections, once accepted, will be assigned to a permit reviewer and be field reviewed by the blasting and explosives inspector for either approval or denial.

Variances

- What
 - Departmental permission to exceed or to modify a regulation.
- Why
 - The Department may approve a variance for the following reasons:
 - Safety or to prevent an unsafe condition
 - To prevent structural damage
 - Correct a bench condition
 - The Department does not approve a variance for the following purposes:
 - Convenience
 - Economics
- Who
 - The operator must submit their request to the Department and reviewed by the blasting and explosives inspector.

Variances cannot be used to waive a permit condition or any act or law.

Alternative PPV and dB Requests

Chapter 211 allows the operator to request an alternative PPV and/or dB requests.

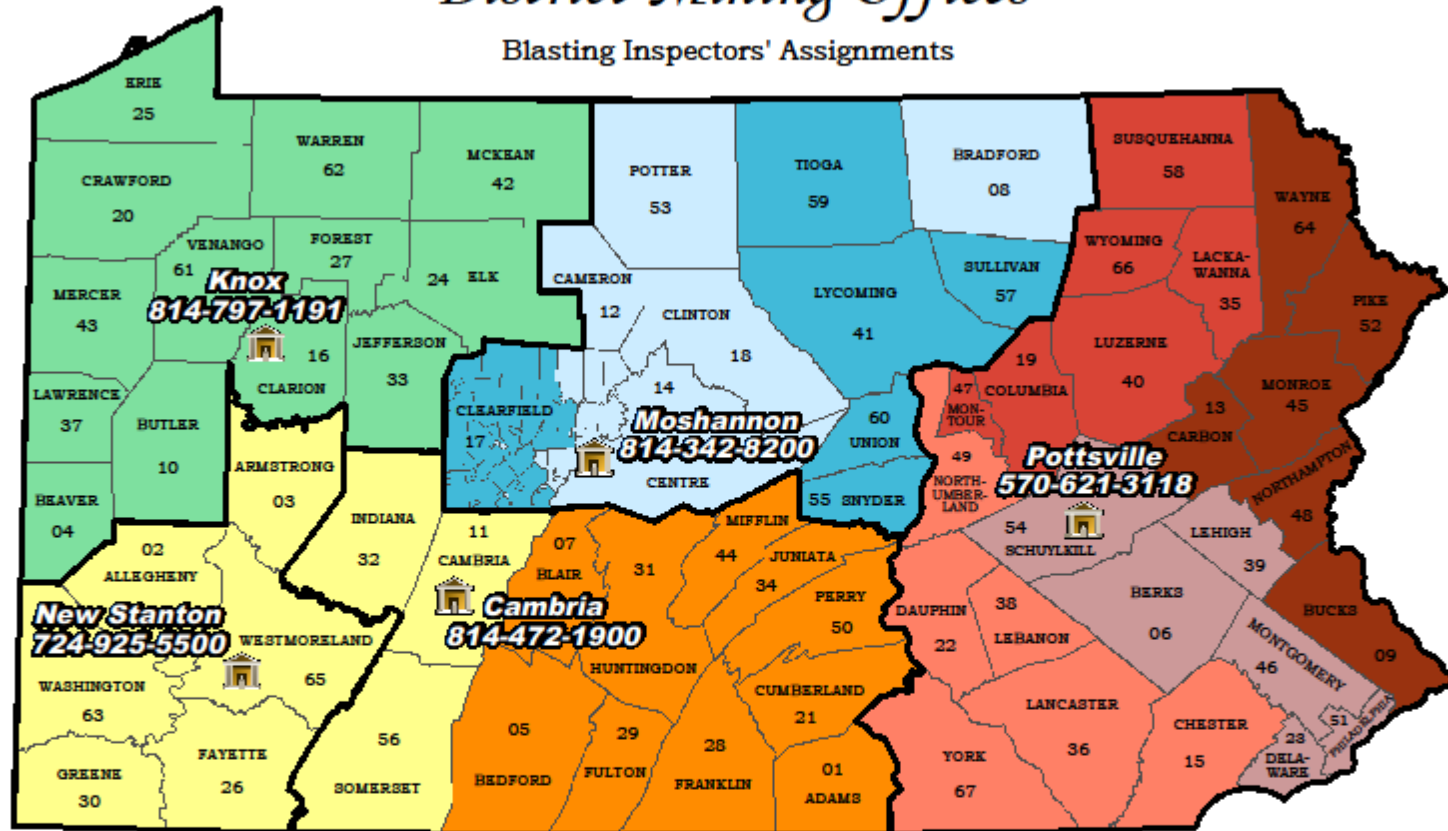
- The operator must submit a request to the Department explaining what they are requesting, why they are requesting and what period of time is needed.
- Department will review the request and it will be determined if the request can be performed and approved as an addendum or will a Module 16 revision will be required.
- The request must come from the operator/permittee, however a blasting contractor can prepare the technical information required for the alternative PPV and/or dB requests.
- Like variances, alternative PPV and dB requests cannot be approved if it creates conflict with the law and/or a condition set in the mining permit

An operator can request variances and alternative seismic limits, not all get approved. Please remember, the regulations state that the Department may approve these requests.

Please contact your blasting and explosives inspector for site specific assistance for any of your blasting needs.

District Mining Offices

Blasting Inspectors' Assignments



Knox

Tom Shofestall

New Stanton

Adam Snyder

Cambria

Adam Snyder

Mike Duke

Moshannon

Mike Donahue

Jim Flegal

Pottsville

Ryan Gallagher

Lloyd Dietz

John Burdyn

Heath Gustafson



Questions?

