INSTRUCTION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF BLASTING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES (DMR)

The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), Organised Labour and Employers during the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA) Board meeting of 22 November 2013 have taken a decision for the MQA to hand over the administration of blasting certificate examinations to the DMR. This decision was a result of the challenges with the rock breaker or equivalent qualifications administered by the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA). The Directives for various types of blasting certificate examinations and the associated Learner / Examiner’s guides has been revised, amended and approved by the DMR after extensive consultation workshops were held internally within the DMR and also with the mining industry stakeholders. The administration of blasting certificate examinations will be implemented by the DMR with effect from 01 June 2017. You are requested to send the attached instruction on a standard DMR letterhead, to all mines in your Region.
Enquiries: A N Other
Reference No: MS-1-2017

Email: Any.Other@dmr.gov.za

The Employer
Mine name
Address

Dear Sir / Madam,

INSTRUCTION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF BLASTING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES

The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) has decided to revert back to the blasting certificate because of the challenges with the rock breaker or equivalent qualification administered by the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA).

With effect from 01 June 2017, the DMR will commence with the administration of the examinations for blasting certificates. The provisions of Minerals Act regulations 28 and 29 in force in terms of item 4 of schedule 4 of the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act 29 of 1996), as amended (MHSA), will be enforced by the DMR when administering the blasting certificate of competency examinations. The MQA will continue issuing the rock breaker or equivalent qualification until the expiry of the qualification.

In terms of schedule 22.4.1(1) 1 of the MHSA, for the purpose of regulation 4.4(1) "competent person" means a person who is in charge of workmen in a working place at the mine and who is the holder of a certificate or qualification recognised by the Department for this purpose, valid for the class of mine to which the mine belongs.

In terms of schedule 22.4.1(1) 1 of the MHSA, the following certificates or qualifications will be recognised by the DMR:
1. The blasting certificate issued by the DMR until 30 June 2009;
2. Rock breaker or equivalent qualification issued by the MQA from 01 July 2009 to 31 May 2017; and
3. Blasting certificate that will be issued by the DMR with effect from 01 June 2017.
With effect from 01 June 2017, any learner entering or completing the rock breaker or equivalent qualification will be required to do the blasting certificate examination in order to be recognized by the DMR.

All rock breaker or equivalent qualifications issued from 01 June 2017 until the expiry of the MQA rock breaker or equivalent qualification will not be recognized by the DMR. All the holders of the rock breaker or equivalent qualification obtained from 01 June 2017 until the expiry of the MQA rock breaker or equivalent qualification must apply to the DMR to be examined to obtain a DMR blasting certificate.

The Directives for various types of blasting certificate examinations and the associated Learner / Examiner's guides has been revised, amended and approved by the DMR after extensive consultation workshops were held internally within the DMR and also with the mining industry stakeholders. The Directives and the Learner / Examiner's guides for the following types of blasting certificates are attached to this letter:

1. Blasting Certificates for Scheduled Mines
2. Blasting Certificates for Fiery Mines
3. Blasting Certificates for Opencast Mines

The attached Directives and the Learner / Examiner's guides for various types of blasting certificate examinations will be made available at the DMR website namely www.dmr.gov.za

Any enquiries regarding the application process should be directed to the following contact details:

Name: B N Other
Telephone: 012 444 3000
Email: bonny.other@dmr.gov.za

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

A N OTHER
PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR
REGION
DATE: