

Part XIX GENERAL BLASTING

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Explanations

Section E420 Security and report requirements

Subsection E420(2) All blast areas must be attended when explosive materials are on site. This involves a person on the blast site assigned to ensure no unauthorized person enters the area. The site must also be barricaded and have the appropriate signs posted. The purpose of this section is to ensure security. Provided the person assigned does not handle or use explosives, they do not have to be a blaster as per s. 417 (a).

For remote sites, a deviation to this section may be requested from the Director (Minister has delegated this authority). In applying for such a deviation, the employer will need to provide safe work procedures that provide an equivalent level of protection to workers. This may include such things as site security patrols, security gates and additional barricades and signage.

Subsection E420(4) *Previously subsection E420(3)* Examples of "unusual occurrences" may include repeated or suspicious misfires or premature detonations, or significant fly rock. The reference to "unusual occurrence" also includes, but is not limited to problems with particular products.

This section requires that the minister be notified immediately of the situation **and** the notice shall be sent within 24 hours of the blasting accident.

Subsection E420(5)(d) *Previously subsection E420(4)(d)* For the purposes of this section “a factual account of the events ...” includes the blaster’s field journal (log book). This field journal should include the lot numbers of the product, if there is a perceived problem with the product being used.

Section E422 Records

Subsection E422(1) Where there are multiple “blasters” working at a site, the blaster that has attained the highest level of certification (1, 2 or 3) shall be deemed the “blaster in charge”. As referred to in Section 422(1), “it” means the previous blast that has occurred at that site. This person is responsible to record the results of all blasts in the field journal or equivalent prior to the next entry in the journal for the successive blasts. These records shall identify anything that is pertinent to the previous blast.

Subsection E422(2) As outlined in Section 422(2), the employer must ensure that the field journal or equivalent records are updated. Even though the blaster in charge has a duty under the Regulations to record results of blasts, the employers must ensure that the records are up to date and are recorded on a continual basis.

Section E423 Suspension or seizure of certificate

Subsection E423(c) The following are noted as blasting practices that may endanger the safety of any person, and may result in the suspension or seizure of a blaster’s certificate:

- Smoking while handling explosives. This includes a blaster smoking while handling explosives, or permitting others to do so;
- Using less than three feet (900 millimetres) of safety fuse to fire any shot;
- Introducing a drill steel, or any other metal object, into a loaded hole;
- Withdrawing explosives (other than ammonium nitrate/fuel oil (AN/FO) or slurries which may be washed out) from a loaded hole;
- Using other than an approved blasting machine or safety switch;
- Failure to adequately guard a blast or to ensure the danger area was clear of workers and other persons;
- Carrying blasting caps or explosives in clothing pockets, or permitting helpers or other workers to carry explosives in a similar manner;
- Storing blasting caps in a explosives magazine or with explosives at any time;

- Transporting explosives with personnel, other than those assigned to assist in handling the explosives;
- Firing multiple electrical blasts without testing the circuit by use of an instrument acceptable to the Division or industry practice;
- Abandoning explosives;
- Failure to check a blast site adequately after the blast to ensure that no misfired or unfired charges remain and that workers are protected from loose rock or other materials that pose a hazard;
- Failure to use adequate cover or other effective means to control the blast and protect persons and/or property from flying material;
- Any conduct on the part of the blaster which poses an unreasonable threat to the safety and well-being of other workers or the public; and
- Carrying out unsafe practices in contravention to manufacturer's recommendations and instructions (e.g. electrical blasting caps must be initiated in a manner recommended by the manufacturer).

Section E438 Firing

The former Section 438(9) (c) and (d) were consolidated, with the addition that people and equipment are to be under protective cover. A qualified person who designs the blast determines the clearance zone (the distance from the blast where various hazards exist) based upon the blast design.