

Blasting Assistant – Surface Mine, Quarries

Introduction In terms of the Explosives Regulations under the Mine Health and Safety Act, a competent person is required as a blasting assistant. .

The competencies required by the Blasting Assistant are:

- safe receipt, storage, issuing and transportation of explosives
- the preparation of primers;
- the charging of blast holes with explosives or the placing of explosive charges;
- the connecting up of blasting rounds or circuits, and
- to assist with the safeguarding of persons against the significant hazards associated with the use of explosives.

Description: People with this skills programme will be able to comply with part of the Explosives Usage at Mines and Works Regulations under the Mine Health and Safety Act in terms of the competencies specified for blasting assistants but excluding the duties covered by the Skills Programme for the Management of Explosives Magazines on Mines and Quarries.

Persons who have achieved this skills programme can progress towards the National Certificate in Rockbreaking L3 (Surface Excavations) as well as other similar qualifications in the Surface Mining/Quarrying sector.

This skills programme would also be useful for responsible persons handling explosives within the Chemical and Construction sectors.

Following the phasing out of the Opencast Blasting Certificate on 30 June 2009, the Unit Standards included in this Skills Programme form part of the new Rockbreaking Qualification - Surface Excavations as well as being an Exit Level Outcome in its own right.

People credited with this Skills Programme are able to **assist** in **Blasting Operations**.

This course is the second step towards the Rockbreaking Qualification and an Exit Level Outcome in its own right.

SAQA Qualification ID: SP-CLA-G017

Target group: New employees and or existing employees.	Short Course: Skills Program: CORE: 244453; 244429; 244445; 244416; 244443	Duration: 3 Days 29 Days
Entry Level Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum Literacy and Numeracy ABET 4 or NQF 1 or RPL, Grade 9 	ELECTIVE: 1 OF 244421; 244424; 244384 If competent a competence certificate will be issued by MQA	

Core:

244453 - [Demonstrate an understanding of the identification of and dealing with rock strata conditions](#)

Core:

244429 - [Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of blasting products and their usage in an underground hard rock environment](#)

Core:

244445 - [Follow basic health and safety practices underground](#)

Core:

244416 - [Make safe a workplace by means of barring](#)

Core:

244443 - [Charge shot holes with primed explosives](#)

Elective:

244421 - [Time a blasting round or circuit on a face where conventional fuses are used](#)

Elective:

244424 - [Time a blasting round or circuit on a face where electric/electronic delay detonators are used](#)

Elective:

244384 - [Time a blasting round or circuit on a face where shock tubes are used](#)

SAQA Qualification ID: SP-CLA-G017