

## Blasting Assistant within Underground Hard Rock

**Introduction:** This Skills Program is in Step 6 of the National Certificate: Mining Operations Underground Hard Rock (58739) NQF Level 2 (See Process Chart) and is also an exit level outcome in its own right. It contains all the learning content that is required for assessment to become competent as a “Blasting Assistant” in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 14 of the Mine Health & Safety Act of 1996.

**Description:** People credited with this skills program are able to assist in blasting operations within the production processing in terms of the following activities:

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

**SAQA Qualification ID: MQA/SP/0064/07**

**Target group:**

New employees and or existing employees.

**Certification:**

Core:

244453; 244429; 244445; 244416;

244443

Elective:

1 OF 244421; 244424; 244384

(Could be RPL'd ±2 days per unit standard)

**Duration:**

20 Days

Days can be reduced depending on RPL

**Entry Level Requirements:**

- Minimum Literacy and Numeracy ABET 4 or NQF 1 or RPL, Grade 9

**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](#)

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