

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS SUPPLEMENT

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S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

2025 No. 41

THE EXPLOSIVES (BLASTING) REGULATIONS, 2025

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2025 No. 41

The Explosives (Blasting) Regulations, 2025

(Under section 45 of the Explosives Act, Cap. 319)

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon the Minister responsible for internal affairs by section 45 of the Explosives Act, these Regulations are made this 4th day of April, 2025.

1. Citation

These Regulations may be cited as the Explosives (Blasting) Regulations, 2025.

2. Interpretation

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Act” means the Explosives Act;

“blaster learner” means a person who is learning to be a blaster and who participates in blasting activities under the direct supervision of a blaster;

“blaster” means a person registered and certified under section 37 of the Act to be in charge of and responsible for the loading and firing of explosives or explosives materials;

“blasting agent” means a relatively insensitive explosive that includes any ammonium nitrate, fuel oil mixture, emulsion, slurry or water gel;

“blasting area” means any area extending at least one hundred meters in all directions from any place in which explosive materials are being prepared or placed, or in which an unexploded charge is known or believed to exist;

“blasting permit” means a permit issued to a blaster to carryout activities of detonating explosives;

“certificate” means a certificate to detonate explosives and supervise blasting activities issued under the Act;

“currency point” has the meaning assigned to it in Schedule 1 to these Regulations;

“danger area” means any area in which there may be danger to any person from flying material or any other hazard resulting from a blast.

3. Blasting of explosives

(1) Subject to section 36 of the Act, a person shall not carry out any activity involving blasting of explosives unless the person has been issued with a blasting certificate by the Chief Explosives Inspector.

(2) A person who intends to detonate small quantities of explosives for industrial or research purposes may apply in writing to the Chief Explosives Inspector requesting an exemption from the requirement under subregulation (1)

(3) The Chief Explosives Inspector shall not authorise the simultaneous blasting of explosives in the same area or on the same rock.

4. Eligibility for blasting certificate

A person is eligible to apply for a blasting certificate if the person—

- (a) is at least twenty-five years old but not older than sixty-five years;
- (b) has a minimum of two years of experience as a blaster learner, specifically in preparing blasts within the classification for which the permit is sought;
- (c) has successfully passed the training examination required for a blaster’s certificate; and
- (d) has no criminal record.

5. Application for blasting certificate

(1) A person who wishes to blast explosives shall apply to the Chief Explosives Inspector for a blasting certificate.

(2) The application referred to in subregulation (1), shall be in Form 1 set out in Schedule 3 to these Regulations.

(3) An application for a blasting certificate shall be submitted with—

- (a) the applicant's full name, physical address, telephone number and email address;
- (b) two recent colour photographs of the applicant in size 6x4 cm;
- (c) a certificate of good conduct issued by Interpol;
- (d) a certificate of good conduct issued by the directorate of forensic services;
- (e) a copy of the applicant's national identity card;
- (f) a copy of the applicant's qualifications, certified by a recognised blaster's training institution;
- (g) proof of payment of the prescribed fees in Schedule 2 to these Regulations;
- (h) a recommendation letter from an individual with direct knowledge of the applicant's expertise; and
- (i) a medical certificate confirming that the applicant is free from any physical or mental illness and is fit to work as a blaster.

(4) The recommendation letter referred to under subregulation (3) (h) shall—

- (a) describe the applicant's experience in blasting;

- (b) provide a comprehensive description of the applicant's role in preparing blasts, including the specific tasks performed and the duration of involvement; and
- (c) confirm whether the applicant is competent to prepare and detonate blasts within the classification for which the certificate is being sought.

(5) The Committee shall carry out due diligence on the applicant to determine whether the he or she is suitable to blast explosives.

6. Grant of blasting certificate

(1) The Chief Explosives Inspector shall, within thirty days from the date of receiving the application, issue a blasting certificate if satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements set out in the Act and these Regulations.

(2) The blasting certificate referred to in subregulation (1) shall be in Form 2 set out in Schedule 3 to these Regulations.

(3) A blasting certificate shall be issued for a specific classification of blasting activities as determined by the Chief Explosives Inspector.

(4) The classification under subregulation (1), may include general blasting which includes all classifications except demolition, mine opening blasting and underground noncoal mining, trenching and construction, entertainment, surface mining, underground noncoal mining, mine opening blasting, industrial, demolition or any other activity as may be determined by the Chief Explosives Inspector.

(5) A blaster may apply to amend a blasting certificate to include other classifications.

(6) A blasting certificate issued under subregulation (1) shall be valid up to the 31st day of December of the year in which the certificate is issued.

(7) A blaster shall perform work only of the nature specified in his or her blasting certificate.

7. Recognition of blasters from another country

(1) The Chief Explosives Inspector may issue a blasting certificate to a person who holds a qualification in blasting and is permitted to blast in another country.

(2) An application for recognition and issuance of a certificate under this regulation shall be made in writing to the Chief Explosives Inspector.

(3) The application under subregulation (2) shall be accompanied by—

- (a) translated certified copies of the certificates of the applicant's country explosives training and examination;
- (b) proof that the applicant is recognised as a certified blaster in his or her country of origin; and
- (c) proof of payment of the fee prescribed in schedule 2 to these Regulations.

8. Recognition and grant of certificate

(1) Where the Chief Explosives Inspector is satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements of the Act and these Regulations, he or she shall recognise and grant the certificate within seven days from the date of receipt of the application.

(2) The certificate referred to in sub-regulation (1) shall be in the Form 2 prescribed in Schedule 3 to these Regulations.

(3) The blasting certificate recognised and issued under subregulation (1) shall be valid up to the 31st day of December of the year in which the certificate is issued.

9. Continuous training for blasters

A blaster shall every year during the term of a blasting certificate undertake a training or refresher course in explosive handling and blasting best practices.

10. Renewal of blasting certificate

(1) A blaster who wishes to renew his or her blasting certificate shall apply for renewal of the blasting certificate at least two months before expiry.

(2) Regulations 5, 6, 7 and 8 shall apply to an application for renewal of a blasting certificate.

(3) The Chief Explosives Inspector may renew a blasting certificate on such terms and conditions as he or she may deem necessary.

11. Suspension, modification or revocation of blasting certificate

(1) The Chief Explosives Inspector may suspend, modify or revoke a blasting certificate for violations of the Act or these regulations.

(2) The Chief Explosives Inspector shall before suspending, modifying or revoking a blasting certificate give the blaster an opportunity to be heard.

12. Application for blasting permit

(1) A blaster who wishes to carry out a blasting activity shall apply to the Chief Explosives Inspector for a blasting permit.

(2) The application referred to under subregulation (1), shall be in Form 3 set out in Schedule 3 to these Regulations.

(3) The application for a blasting permit shall be submitted with—

- (a) an approved authorisation from the ultimate user of the explosive or the employer of the blaster permitting the use of explosives;
- (b) a copy of the blasting certificate;
- (c) the quantity of explosives to be used;

- (d) a copy of a blasting plan;
- (e) a copy of the transport permit issued under regulation 11 of the Explosives General Regulations; and
- (f) a copy of safety and security measures to be undertaken during the blasting period.

(4) A blaster with a foreign blasting certificate shall work with a local blaster.

(5) A blaster who does not understand the official language shall be accompanied by a translator.

13. Grant of blasting permit

(1) The Chief Explosives Inspector shall, within thirty days from the date of receipt of the application, if satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements of the Act and these Regulations, issue a blasting permit stating the conditions for the permit.

(2) The blasting permit issued under this regulation shall be for a single blasting activity.

(3) The blasting permit referred to in subregulation (1) shall be in Form 4 set out in Schedule 3 to these Regulations.

14. Precautions before drilling

(1) A person shall not commence drilling at a blasting area until a blaster has—

- (a) carefully examined the exposed faces for miss fired holes and cut-off holes;
- (b) washed the previously blasted area;
- (c) washed and cleaned out any bootlegs with rigid non-sparking scrapers or wash pipes;
- (d) conspicuously identified the bootlegs;
- (e) inserted lifter sticks or plugs into the lifters or remnants of lifters; and

(f) examined all the remaining butts of old holes for unexploded charges.

(2) Where unexploded charges are found, the blaster shall refire the charges before any work proceeds.

(3) A person shall not deepen a drill hole which contained explosives or blasting agents.

(4) An explosive or blasting agent shall not be left unattended to at the blast site.

15. Procedures for loading and blasting

A blaster shall implement the following procedures for the loading of explosives and blasting-

(a) drill holes shall be of sufficient size to permit the ease and unobstructed insertion of the explosive charge to the bottom of the hole;

(b) a hole shall not, within eight meters, be charged with explosives in any face where drilling is being performed or in any bench where drilling is being performed;

(c) a hole shall be clear of obstruction before charging the hole with explosives;

(d) an explosive in cartridge form shall be left in its original wrapper;

(e) iron or steel tool, rod or pipe shall not be used in charging holes for blasting;

(f) iron or steel tool shall not be inserted in a hole containing explosives;

(g) where holes are loaded pneumatically with explosives –

(i) only a semi-conductive hose manufactured for such a purpose shall be used;

(ii) loading equipment and mobile equipment designed for loading shall be adequately grounded; and

- (iii) loading equipment shall not be in electrical contact with the grounding system.
- (h) where electrical blasting detonators are used in the hole-
 - (i) plastic or other non-conducting liners shall not be used; and
 - (ii) the detonator shall not be placed in the hole until pneumatic loading of the hole is completed, unless an alternative safe work procedure has been detailed in writing by the employer;
- (i) each hole charged with explosives shall have a detonating agent placed in the charge;
- (j) each charge shall be fired in its proper sequence in the round;
- (k) all holes that are charged with explosives in one loading operation shall be fired in one blasting operation;
- (l) safety fuse shorter than one (1) meter shall not be used in a blasting operation, and safety fuse shall not be trimmed or ignited except at the end;
- (m) machines and all tools not used for loading explosives into bore holes shall be removed from the immediate location of holes before explosives are delivered;
- (n) the burning time of a spitter or timing device shall be less than that of one-half the length of the shortest fuse used, and persons lighting the blast shall retreat immediately after the first spitter or timing device goes out;
- (o) in a workplace where primary blasting is not performed, secondary blasting shall not be conducted using tape fuses;
- (p) a blaster must ensure that a worker does not use excessive force when tamping explosives;

- (q) packaging materials for explosives shall be destroyed by a blaster in accordance with the blasting permit;
- (r) equipment shall not be operated within fifty feet of loaded holes; and
- (s) no activity of any nature other than that which is required for loading holes with explosives shall be permitted in a blast area.

16. Blasting area

The blasting area shall be out of bounds to unauthorised persons and any other activity other than blasting.

17. Safety measures to be observed by blaster

- (1) A blaster shall—
 - (a) clearly identify the blasting area by signs to prevent inadvertent access of vehicles, equipment or pedestrians;
 - (b) liaise with the area police to provide security to guard all possible access points to the danger area;
 - (c) conduct blasting during clear weather;
 - (d) conduct blasting during broad day light from 7am -5pm;
 - (e) keep power lines and portable electric cables for equipment being used at a safe distance from explosives or blasting agents being loaded into drill holes;
 - (f) de-energize and lock out cables in the proximity of the blast area;
 - (g) check holes prior to loading to determine depth and conditions;
 - (h) not drill within fifty feet of the hole where a hole has been loaded with explosives but the explosives have failed to detonate;
 - (i) not load or use underground in the presence of combustible gases or combustible dusts;

- (j) shall stem all blast holes in open work to the collar or to a point which will confine the charge;
- (k) not sprung a bore hole when it is adjacent to or near a hole that is loaded; and
 - (l) not use flashlight batteries for springing holes.
 - (2) The security provided shall remain at their posts until the charge is detonated and the “All Clear” signal is sounded.

18. Storage of explosives at blasting area

(1) Blasting cartridges and detonators shall be kept in separate locked receptacles not less than six feet apart where explosives to be used are stored in the vicinity or brought in such quantities as are required for the days’ work or for immediate use.

(2) A blaster shall not prepare charges until the charges are required for use.

19. Prohibition of fires

A person shall not smoke or light a fire in the blasting area during the process of blasting or preparing charges for blasting.

20. Tamping

- (1) A blaster shall use –
 - (a) sand or soft clay for tamping; or
 - (b) wooden tamping rods.
- (2) A blaster shall not use –
 - (a) violent tamping; or
 - (b) primer.

21. Precaution to be observed prior to igniting charge

(1) A blaster shall, before igniting a charge, take every precaution necessary to prevent any person from approaching or remaining within dangerous distance.

(2) For purposes of subregulation (1), dangerous distance means within three hundred meters from the blasting area.

22. Counting of shots

(1) Where two or more charges are fired at the same time, at least two persons shall count the shots, and should any doubt arise as to the number of charges which have exploded, a delay of at least thirty minutes shall ensue before the scene of operations is revisited.

(2) A blaster shall not leave the place of operation until he or she has examined the place for public safety.

23. Charges fired electrically

The place of operation may be entered as soon as the circuit is broken where charges are fired electrically.

24. Prohibition of extraction of cartridges

A blaster shall not—

- (a) extract cartridges from a hole that was once charged;
or
- (b) remove any of the tamping from the hole.

25. Misfires

(1) Where an explosive charge has misfired or is suspected of having misfired, the blaster, at a safe time and without undue delay, shall cause the charge to be—

- (a) re-blasted; or
- (b) washed out, unless the charge contains an explosive that is—
 - (i) nitroglycerine sensitised;
 - (ii) not water soluble;

- (iii) not identified by the blaster in the safe work procedures for re-blasting; or
- (iv) the explosive charge contains a detonator.

(2) In the event of a misfire, a tamping and a charge shall be flooded with water and the hole marked in a distinguished manner.

(3) A blaster shall drill another hole at a distance not less than twelve inches and not greater than eighteen inches from the original hole and fired in an ordinary manner.

(4) If a misfire cannot be dealt with immediately, a blaster shall carefully remove the tamping and plug the misfired hole by means of an approved wooden plug which shall be readily distinguishable from plugs used for other purposes.

26. Warnings before blasting

Where blasting is to take place on the surface—

- (a) thirty minutes before blasting, a siren shall be sounded within the proximity of the danger area;
- (b) the siren sounded shall cover a minimum area of one kilometer;
- (c) warning signs, indicating a blast area, shall be maintained at all approaches to the blast area; and
- (d) the warning sign lettering shall not be less than 4 inches in height on a contrasting background.

27. Precautions for underground blasting

(1) Where explosives are conveyed or used underground, the following precautions shall be observed—

- (a) when conveyed in a shaft by means of machinery, the person in charge of the explosives shall inform the

banksman and the banksman shall inform the engine driver who shall operate the engine in such a manner as to avoid any sudden shock being imparted to the conveyance;

- (b) during the conveyance of explosives in a shaft, no other material and no tools (except such as may be permitted by these regulations for use in making up a charge or in charging or stemming holes) shall be carried in the same conveyance, and no person shall travel therein other than the person in charge of explosives and his assistants, if any;
- (c) a person shall not carry any light other than a self-contained electric lamp whilst carrying explosives;
- (d) light other than a self-contained electric lamp shall not be placed near any box containing explosives;
- (e) a blaster or other person shall not carry or allow any assistant to carry any of the three following types of explosives together—
 - (i) blasting cartridges and powders;
 - (ii) detonators and capped fuse; and
 - (iii) primer cartridges.
- (f) during the preparation of charges and whilst any box containing explosives is being opened, all lights shall be removed to a safe distance of not less than four feet;
- (g) before firing the charges, the blaster shall arrange with the guards for their safe withdrawal after the charges have exploded, and shall inform the guards of the number of charges being fired; and
- (h) before any broken rock is removed from any heading or other unventilated part of the mine, the ganger shall ensure the material is thoroughly wetted down with water to dispel gas and fumes.

(2) Any person finding explosives in the broken material after blasting has taken place or in any other place shall at once take the explosives to a blaster for safe disposal.

28. Reporting blasting incidents

(1) Where a blasting activity causes an incident that involves personal injury or an unusual occurrence with explosive materials, the employer and supervisor shall ensure that the incident is reported to the Chief Explosive's Inspector within twenty-four hours.

(2) A blaster shall make and forward to the explosives inspector a written report detailing—

- (a) the names and permit numbers of all blasters involved;
- (b) the time, date and location of the incident;
- (c) the names of any injured persons;
- (d) property damaged if any;
- (e) the details of the detonators, explosives, accessories, and blasting equipment used;
- (f) a factual account of the incident and the events leading to it; and
- (g) a description of the action taken by the employer.

29. Abandonment of blast site

A blaster shall ensure that each site, before work is discontinued, has the rock broken at the firing of the last round cleared from the face, and the whole face of the site is washed down and examined for misholes or cut-off holes.

30. Area affected by blast

The blaster shall determine the size of the danger area and ensure that, before the final connection to lead wires is made or the charge is initiated, all persons have moved to a suitable shelter or to a safe distance.

31. Duties of blaster

(1) A blaster shall not leave a blasted area before examining the area and attending to any undetonated explosive materials and other hazards caused by the blast.

(2) Where unauthorized access to a blasted area is effectively prevented, and before any work commences, a blaster shall examine the area and give permission for work to proceed.

(3) Explosives shall not be abandoned and shall be placed in suitable storage in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

- (4) The blaster shall maintain and keep an accurate register of—
- (a) all persons in the blasting area;
 - (b) explosives, blasting agents, and blasting supplies used in a blast; and
 - (c) inventory of all explosives and blasting agents stored at the blasting area.

32. Certified blaster to be in charge of blasting

A blaster, appointed by the employer, shall be in charge of every blast, and shall—

- (a) ensure that, when using tape fuse, at least two workers are present at the blasting operation;
- (b) in a tunnel operation, ensure that the workers referred to in paragraph (a) carry lights, unless the blasting operation is conducted on the surface in daylight or under artificial light—
 - (i) fix the time for blasting so that the workers are exposed as little as possible to dust, fumes and smoke; and

- (ii) maintain a clock keeping accurate time to enable the workers to check their watches before entering the tunnel; and
- (c) where it is necessary for the safety of the workers, coordinate times of blasting with times of blasting at connecting or adjacent property.

33. Filing returns

A blaster shall file a return to the Chief Explosives Inspector within seven working days after the blasting activity indicating-

- (a) how an activity has been undertaken;
- (b) any balance of the explosives;
- (c) any incident of damage to property or injury to life; and
- (d) effect of the activity on the surrounding area.

34. Committee to investigate explosives incident

Once an explosive incident has been reported, the Chief Explosives Inspector shall constitute a grievance handling committee which shall investigate the incident and report back within fifteen days.

35. Local grievance committee

(1) The Chief Explosives Inspector shall, on the advice of the Committee, constitute a local grievance committee which shall be chaired by a nominated member of the Committee.

- (2) The grievance committee shall—
 - (a) carry out pre-blasting safety sensitization;
 - (b) carry out post blasting investigations to determine any impact of the blasting activity; and
 - (c) report to the committee its findings and recommendations

36. General offence

A person who contravenes any provision in these Regulations commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding five hundred currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or both.

37. Appeal to Minister

A person aggrieved by the decision of the Chief Explosives Inspector may appeal to the Minister.

SCHEDULES

Schedule 1

Currency Point

Regulation 2

A currency point is equivalent to twenty thousand shillings.

Schedule 2

Fees

| No. | Item | Fees (UGX) |
|------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Application for blasting certificate | 100,000 |
| 2. | Blasting certificate | 1,000,000 |
| 3. | Application for recognition of foreign blasting certificate | 500,000 |
| 4. | Blasting certificates for non-citizens | 5,000,000 |
| 5. | Application for permit to blast | 50,000 |
| 6. | Blasting permit | 100,000 |

Schedule 3

Forms



Ministry of Internal Affairs

Form 1

Regulation 5 (1)

Application for Blaster’s Certificate

Instructions: Fill in block letters

Name of applicant

Address

Telephone number.....

Email address

Current employer.....

Physical address

Telephone Contact

The date of the application.....

The Classification of blasting activity

General blasting.....

demolition.....

mine opening blasting.....

underground noncoal mining.....

trenching and construction.....
Entertainment.....
surface mining.....
Industrial demolition.....
others.....

Attachments

- (a) proof of payment of prescribed fees;
- (b) proof of qualification from a recognized institution;
- (c) certificate of good conduct;
- (d) recommendation from a person who has direct knowledge of the applicant’s expertise;
- (e) medical and mental fitness test;
- (f) two recent passport size photos;
- (g) copy of national identification card;
- (h) proof of nationality;
- (i) foreigners to provide a copy of blasters certificate or its equivalent; and
- (j) proof of valid work permit for foreigners.

Dated this day of20.....

.....
Name and Signature of the Applicant



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Form 2

Regulation 6 (2)

Blaster's Certificate

Serial Number....

I authorise(*Insert in the name of the applicant*) of.....(*Inert in the Address*)

to use or cause to be used, blasting materials subject to the provisions of Explosives Act and the Regulations.

The certificate shall be valid for twelve months from date of issue. Renewal to be done two months before expiry.

FEE: Shs.....

(Signature).....

Chief Explosives Inspector

Date



Ministry of Internal Affairs

Form 3

Regulation 12 (2)

Application for Blasting Permit

Serial Number

1. Name of Applicant:.....
2. Name of Contractor:
3. Address of Work:
4. Name of Blaster and Contact.....
5. Purpose of Blasting.....
6. Name of Local Blaster (in case of foreigners).....
7. Name of translator.....

Dated this day of20.....

.....
Name and Signature of the Applicant

Attachments

- (a) proof of payment of prescribed fees;
- (b) copy of blasting certificate;
- (c) copy of the transport permit;
- (d) approved authority for use of explosives;

- (e) proof of qualification from a recognized institution;
- (f) a blasting plan to include: depth & diameter of Holes, number of holes, burden & Spacing of holes, amount of explosives per hole, size & grade (mass per hole) Length of Det/Cord/DTH, number of relay/surface connector, number of Detonators used, buffer zone, blasting direction, tamping space, sketch plan, proposed date and time when the blasting is to take place, signature of blaster, officer authorizing the plan and the initiation mechanism.



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Form 4

Regulation 13 (3)

Permit Number

Blasting Permit

I hereby authoriseholder
of blasting certificate number.....to use..... the under listed

Name of explosives

Quantity.....

which will be used on (date)

at a place (specify local area)

or cause to be used, blasting materials subject to the provisions of Explosives Act and the regulations.

The certificate shall be valid for twelve months from date of issue. Renewal to be done two months before expiry.

(Signature).....

Chief Explosives Inspector

Date

HON. MAJ. GEN. KAHINDA OTAFIIRE (Rtd),
Minister of Internal Affairs