



**Virginia Department of Fire Programs  
State Fire Marshal's Office, Explosives Section**

**Application for a Background Clearance Card (BCC),  
Pyrotechnician or Blaster Certification**

Pursuant to § 27-97.2 of the Code of Virginia any person, as an individual or as a representative of a company, who applies for a permit to manufacture, store, use, handle or sell explosives or blasting agents, or applies to become certified as a Pyrotechnician or Blaster, is required to undergo a background investigation. The background investigation requires the applicant to submit fingerprints and personal descriptive information on forms provided by the department. In turn, the fingerprints and personal information will be forwarded through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining a national criminal history record check on the applicant.

Because the process to obtain Pyrotechnician or Blaster Certification or a Background Clearance Card (BCC) involves a fingerprint card, applications **cannot** be downloaded from an internet site or be obtained as an email attachment. The fingerprint cards supplied by the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) are specifically coded to the SFMO. Please call the SFMO at 804-371-0220 to request either an application for certification as a Pyrotechnician, Blaster or BCC to be mailed to you. Please indicate if you're seeking certification so we can include certification exam information.

Once the application is received by the SFMO, please allow 45 days to process the application and fingerprint card. After submittal, if you have not received a certification card, a BCC, or notification of denial within 45 days of the submittal, you may call 804-371-0220 to inquire on the status of the application.