Title:	Charges in Shot Holes and Depth of Shot and Test Holes That Exceed Maximum Levels
Number:	ED2006-18
Program Name:	Operations
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# **Background**

Pursuant to Section 49 of the *Exploration Regulation (AR 284/2006)*, the maximum allowable depth of a shot hole or test hole in a program of exploration is 20 m. The maximum allowable explosive energy source that can be used in a shot hole is 20 kg. In some cases, the program permittee or program licensee as defined in Sections 1(ee) and 1(ff) of the *Exploration Regulation* may propose to drill shot holes and/or test holes deeper than 20 m, or use an explosive energy source within a shot hole that is greater then 20 kg allowed by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER). The requirements and procedures for exceeding the maximum depth of a shot hole, test hole, or the maximum charge size are set forth in this directive.

## Requirements

#### **Explosive Charges**

If the size of the charge to be detonated in a shot hole is greater than 20 kg, the program licensee or permittee must:

- provide the AER with justification for exceeding the maximum charge size; this must accompany the submission for application for approval under Section 23 of the *Exploration Regulation*,
- obtain written approval from the AER to exceed the maximum size; and
- ensure the explosive charge is not loaded in the shot hole before written approval is given by the AER.

### **Depth of Shot Hole**

If the depth of a shot hole is proposed to be deeper than 20 m, which is the maximum allowable depth, the program licensee or program permittee must:

- provide the AER with justification for exceeding the maximum allowable depth; this must accompany the submission for application for approval under Section 23 of the *Exploration Regulation*,
- provide the AER with the proposed temporary and permanent shot hole abandonment procedures, and
- ensure the shot hole is **not drilled** beyond the maximum allowable depth **before** written approval is received.

## **Depth of a Test Hole**

If a test hole is proposed to be deeper than 20 m, which is the maximum allowable depth, the program licensee or program permittee must:

- provide the AER with justification for exceeding the maximum allowable depth; this must accompany the submission for application for approval under Section 23 of the *Exploration Regulation*,
- provide the AER with the proposed test hole temporary and permanent abandonment procedures, and,
- ensure the test hole is **not drilled** beyond the maximum allowable depth **before** such approval is received.

### **Procedure**

The program licensee or program permittee must apply for written permission from the AER listed below to exceed the maximum charge size or the maximum allowable depths of shot holes or test holes. This must accompany the submission for application for approval under Section 23 of the *Exploration Regulation*.

# **Enforcement/Compliance**

Enforcement policy and procedures are currently under review and this directive will be updated accordingly.

### **Contact Information**

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**Authorities** Mines and Minerals Act (Part 8) and Exploration Regulation (AR 284/2006)

**Approved** Original Signed by

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