PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition *FAQs*
Updated 20 January 2021

If you have other questions, please feel free to contact us at PMBOK_Guide_Team@pmi.org.

1. **Why is PMI changing *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge* (*PMBOK® Guide*)?**
The evolution of technology has changed the way work gets done for many professions, including project management. Based on feedback from project managers across industries and around the world, we heard there was room to improve the content and structure to reflect current ways of working. Practitioners are now tasked with identifying the right delivery approach (predictive, adaptive or hybrid) to get the job done and deliver value. We recognized that we needed to update the *PMBOK® Guide* in order to stay relevant and meet the needs of our customers.

2. **What do I need to know about the new structure of the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition?**
Overall, the goal with the next edition of the *PMBOK® Guide* is to make the content more user-friendly and relevant to project managers using predictive, hybrid and adaptive, or agile, approaches. Based on the draft in development:

   The next edition will put the focus on project outcomes in addition to deliverables.

   There will also be an entire section dedicated to the topic of tailoring.

   The Process Groups and ITTOs will be referenced throughout the next edition but are no longer fully included in the publication – we will continue to make them available through digital offerings, like PMIstandards+™.

3. **When is the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition expected to be released?**
The content is in final draft, and we are engaging with the last group of stakeholders as part of our efforts to ensure all voices are heard. We are planning for a 2021 release but are unable to provide a final date.

   As soon as we have a final date for the publication of the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition, we will announce this through all of our normal communication channels. Until then, we will continue to provide updates and links to helpful resources and informational sessions through our dedicated web page: pmi.org/standards-projects.

4. **Can I still use Process Groups and Knowledge Areas?**
Yes. In fact, the Process Groups is one of the models in the Models, Methods, and Artifacts section of the draft guide. The concepts from the Knowledge Areas will be seen in multiple project performance domains.

5. **How does the release of the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition impact the Project Management Professional (PMP®) certification exam?**
The *PMBOK® Guide* is an input to preparing for the PMP® exam – and is listed as a reference – but it is not a test-preparation tool. The new PMP® exam, which launched 2 January 2021, will continue to use the *PMBOK® Guide* – Sixth Edition as one of several references. The new exam

has been planned for some time and is not related to the release of the *PMBOK® Guide –* Seventh Edition.

We strongly recommend that candidates refer to the current Exam Content Outline for up-to-date information about preparing for certifications. Information about PMI certifications and future changes can be found at pmi.org/certifications.

6. **When will the Project Management Professional (PMP®) certification exam be updated to incorporate the concepts from the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition?**
   PMP® exam items are updated throughout the year as part of our continuous improvement and examination maintenance process. Once the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition is released, it will replace the Sixth Edition as reference to validate the content.

7. **What are the Authorized Training Partner Program's licensed PMP® Exam prep materials based on?**
   The course materials were developed to address the PMP® Exam Content Outline. If the Exam Content Outline changes, Authorized Training Partners will have access to updated course materials.

8. **How does the release of the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition impact the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM®) certification exam?**
   The current CAPM® exam will continue to be based on the Sixth Edition as dictated by the Exam Content Outline for the CAPM® examination. The Sixth Edition is a test preparation tool that candidates may leverage to prepare for the CAPM® exam.

   More detail can be found in the CAPM® handbook.

   We strongly recommend that candidates refer to the current Exam Content Outline guide for up-to-date information about preparing for certifications. Information about PMI certifications and future changes can be found at pmi.org/certifications.

9. **When will the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM®) certification exam be updated to incorporate the concepts from the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition?**
   While we will eventually update the CAPM® exam, we have not yet released a date. Once we have a launch date for a new CAPM® exam, we will let the community know.

10. **Should candidates sign up for the CAPM® certification exam now or should they wait until the exam is updated?**
    We still see value in the current exam and encourage practitioners to sign up. The *PMBOK® Guide –* Seventh Edition will build upon the Sixth Edition, and the learnings and concepts remain valid.

11. **Does the pending release of the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition mean that content from prior editions is no longer valid?**
    The good news is that key learnings and concepts from the *PMBOK® Guide* – Sixth Edition remain valid and are referenced in sections of the draft guide.

We recognize that many project managers have used specific elements like the Process Groups and ITTOs very successfully in their own project environments. If you are among them, you can continue to use these elements while aligning to the concepts in the Seventh Edition.

12. **What is the update process and who was involved?**
The development of the revised standard followed our established and ANSI-aligned development processes, whereas the guide followed the process used in the development of other PMI guides, such as the *Agile Practice Guide*. Both documents were developed with input from over 200 participants in focus groups and workshops, and iterative reviews of the content drafts by over 70 practitioners and experts representing the diversity of the profession and its global reach.

13. **How and where can I learn more about the development of the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition?**
Visit our web site at pmi.org/standards-projects. In addition, various volunteers involved in the development of the *PMBOK® Guide* and *The Standard for Project Management* posted blogs to *The Critical Path* on ProjectManagement.com. These posts focused on concepts and thinking as the team worked to develop content.

14. **Will the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition be translated into other languages; if so, which languages?**
The *PMBOK® Guide*, which includes *The Standard for Project Management*, will be published in English and 10 additional languages: Arabic, Chinese (simplified), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Brazilian Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The translated versions are expected to publish in 2021.

15. **What is the difference between the standard and the guide?**
A standard is a document established by consensus and approved by a recognized body. *The Standard for Project Management* is the document that carries the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) designation. *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide)* provides a framework for applying the standard.

16. **How does this change fit with other published approaches, such as PRINCE2®, ITIL, Disciplined Agile™ and others?**
We recognize there are many frameworks and methodologies that practitioners can use to guide projects. That is why the draft standard and guide do not prescribe a particular approach. Multiple approaches fit within the principles of the draft standard and the project performance domains described in the guide.

17. **Will agile principles be embedded in the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh edition?**
We know practitioners are tasked with identifying the right delivery approach (predictive, adaptive or hybrid) to get the job done and deliver value. To ensure the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition remains relevant, we are focused on providing flexibility to assist the practitioner in managing the project and deliver outputs that enable outcomes regardless of development approach.

The pending *Standard for Project Management* presents 12 principles of project management, but they are not specifically agile principles. Rather, the principles are considered universal

regardless of approach. The *PMBOK® Guide* focuses on project performance domains to reflect the full spectrum of approaches from predictive to adaptive.

18. **Where will I find the inputs, tools and techniques, and outputs?**
In-depth information on inputs, tools and techniques, and outputs can be found on PMIstandards+™. The *PMBOK Guide®* – Seventh Edition has expanded the breadth of tools listed in a new section titled "Models, Methods, and Artifacts," and content on how to apply these by project type, development approach and industry sector is presented in PMIstandards+™.

19. **I recently passed the CAPM® exam. Does the pending new edition of the *PMBOK® Guide* impact the validity of my certification?**
Congratulations on earning your CAPM certification! The updates to *The Standard for Project Management*, included in the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition, have no effect on the validity of your certification.