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Subject: Update on the PMP®: What you need to know

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Update on the PMP® What you need to know

Wednesday, 6 October 2010

Dear PMI Registered Education Providers:

PMI's certification program is a vital part of our organization and how we serve the project management community. Continuing maturation and development of the program is critical to our success. Strategically managing the Project Management Professional (PMP)® credential is at the forefront of this program.

PMI conducts a Role Delineation Study (RDS) every five to seven years, for each of our credentials based on the role in project management the credential serves. We have just completed the RDS for the PMP and are preparing operational improvements and communications to keep PMI key stakeholders informed of what the RDS is and how it affects them.

Why is the RDS important for the continuing development of the PMP?

Conducting an RDS enables PMI to identify the most current and critical elements of the professional practice of project management. This ensures that the credential examinations continue to assess what is most relevant in the day-to-day work of project managers as the profession evolves over time. In the global marketplace, the PMP credential's accreditation under ISO 17024 provides a distinctive differentiation, and this accreditation also requires that we conduct the RDS.

How will the results of the RDS affect the PMP?

The results of the RDS produced an updated description of the professional role of a PMP. The responses met the requirements for statistical relevancy and adequately reflected the profession in geographic, industry, and other standard demographics. Feedback was collected from more than 3,000 PMP credential holders from 97 countries and representing all levels of organizations, from 45 self-identified CEOs to 1,381 project managers.

The outcomes of the PMP RDS provide PMI with a blueprint for updating the credential. The major outcomes of the RDS are detailed below:

- The education and experience requirements that define the eligibility for the existing PMP examination remain appropriate and will not be changed.
- Approximately 30% of the PMP exam content will change as a result of new or substantial changes to reflect the role as defined by the RDS. This change will be implemented through existing items being updated as appropriate, new examination items being developed to meet these requirements, and old items which do not meet the criteria being retired.
- As a result of the RDS, certain areas of the examination will be tested in a different way because an existing domain was seen to be common across all content areas of the examination. Specifically, the Professional and Social Responsibility content area (Domain 6) will now be tested in every domain rather than as a separate domain on the examination. The recognition obtained through the RDS is that professional and social responsibility is integrated into all of the work of project management. PMIs Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct should therefore be viewed as now integrated into the day-to-day role of a project manager, emphasizing its importance in each phase of the project lifecycle.

What do you need to know so that you can support your customers?

- PMI will finalize these changes to the PMP examination with the targeted release globally on 31 August 2011. This is the date to communicate to people who want to take the examination so they can prepare using the proper materials
 - Before 31 August 2011 study materials are the same as today.
 - 31 August 2011 and after new materials will be aligned to the PMP Examination Content Outline, which is publicly available now.
- The PMP Examination Content Outline will be available beginning this month (October 2010). This outline provides the information that PMI communities, Registered Education Providers and trainers need to update their training and examination preparation courses. Trainers, therefore, have nearly 10 months to update their teaching materials before the examination update.
- Through ongoing communications, project professionals who are considering the PMP credential are being encouraged to continue with their examination plans. Candidates who are considering taking the exam in the near term to utilize the exam preparation resources currently available to them. These materials include the PMP Examination Specification, study guides, study groups, and training courses.

The planning for the changes in the PMP have integrated the lessons learned from the last release. There are several critical differences between this release and the 2005 release. Most notably, as a result of the RDS, there is no change in the PMP eligibility requirements as was the case in 2005. In addition, the changes to the PMP that resulted from the update to *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide)* were made in 2009. This is a significant change from 2005 when those changes were implemented concurrently with the change in eligibility requirements.

To prepare you for inquiries and comments about the RDS, you may access the PMP Update Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on the [PMP Update page on PMI.org](#) for more detailed information about the changes. Please visit this web page to get regular updates on the PMP Update. In addition, a follow up communication will be sent to you this month, providing you with specific information on what has changed between the current and updated PMP examination.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact PMI directly.

Best regards,

Brian A. Weiss, MBA
Vice President, Product Management

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