

Purpose of this Document: *This document provides answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about scheduled updates to the PMBOK® Guide — which will follow a different process than in previous years — and the PMI standards for program and portfolio management.*

The Exposure Draft Process

Q. When will the exposure draft for the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* become available?

- A. The *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* will be open for public comment in two stages:
- The first stage—for *The Standard for Project Management only*—ran from Monday, 7 March 2016 to Wednesday, 6 April 2016.
 - In the second stage, PMI will open the *PMBOK® Guide* for public comment. This will include **all other chapters** (excluding the Standard) that make up the publication. This stage will run from 8 a.m. (EDT) 26 June 2016 to 5 p.m. (EDT) 26 July 2016.

Q. Who can participate in the exposure draft? Do I need to hold a PMI certification or membership?

- A. The review takes place over 30 consecutive days, during which anyone who as an interest—and is a registered user on PMI.org—can review the guide and/or the standard, and provide comments to the committee about the content.

Q. Why is this exposure draft being managed differently than in previous editions?

- A. Since its introduction in 1996, the *PMBOK® Guide* has grown in popularity as organizations have learned how project management leads to organizational success. It is important that we continue to provide our stakeholders with the most up to date information in this expanding field and changing the process will allow us to publish the *PMBOK® Guide* in the third quarter of 2017 in American English and 10 additional languages, in both print and electronic versions.

Q. What are the benefits of changing the process?

- A. By dividing the exposure draft review of the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* so that only *The Standard for Project Management* is subject to a full consensus review, PMI is greatly streamlining the update process. It will allow us to publish the *PMBOK® Guide* in the third quarter of 2017 in English and 10 additional languages, in both print and electronic versions.

Q. What is the difference between a standard and a guide? Does the *PMBOK® Guide* contain both?

- A. The *PMBOK® Guide* is unique because it is both a standard and a guide together in one book:
- The **standard** presents the processes that are considered good practice for most projects, most of the time.
 - The **guide** provides detail about the key concepts, inputs, outputs, tools and techniques associated with project management processes.

The standard section—*The Standard for Project Management*—has been a part of every edition of the *PMBOK® Guide*.

Q. What is the difference between full consensus review and limited consensus review?

A. In a full consensus review, a standard is opened to the public for comment and suggestions for revisions. The authors of the standard – in this case, the *PMBOK® Guide* committee – review and respond to each comment. Commenters may appeal decisions through an official process.

In a limited consensus review, all comments will be reviewed with the same level of scrutiny and consideration, but the committee will not reply to comments, nor will they be eligible for the appeals process.

For more information, visit the exposure draft process [page](#) on PMI.org.

Q. Does the new process mean that you will be publishing *The Standard for Project Management* separately from the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition*?

A. No, the separation of the Standard and the Guide is for the exposure draft only. As in previous versions, the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* will include *The Standard for Project Management* within the publication.

Q. Are there additional exposure drafts scheduled this year?

A. After both exposures are complete for the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition*, we will begin the exposure draft processes for *The Standard for Program Management* and *The Standard for Portfolio Management*. These exposure drafts are tentatively planned for the third quarter of 2016. **No changes** will be made to the exposure draft process for these two standards.

Q. When will the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* be published?

A. The *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* will be published in the third quarter of 2017. All versions – including 10 translations and the digital edition – will launch simultaneously.

Q. When will the new editions of the Program Management and Portfolio Management Standards be published?

A. The Program Management and Portfolio Management Standards are tentatively scheduled for publication after the release of the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* in the third and fourth quarters of 2017.

Updated Content

Q. What new content will the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* contain?

A. The newest edition of the *PMBOK® Guide* will present new content on agile and on the PMI Talent Triangle™.

Q. How much content will be included on agile?

- A. Different from previous editions, the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* will contain numerous references to agile. This decision was made in response to the requests of our stakeholders. This content will include:
- The practices often used in an agile environment in the front of each knowledge area section (Sections 4–13).
 - An appendix on agile practices.

Q. What content will the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* provide on the PMI Talent Triangle™?

- A. The *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* will contain a new chapter on the role of the project manager which discusses the PMI Talent Triangle™ and the skill sets organizations demand that make project managers more competitive and relevant—technical project management, leadership, and strategic and business management.

Q. What other new content can I expect to see?

- A. New to the Sixth Edition, each section (or knowledge area) of the guide will have three introductory sections. The introductory sections are:
- **Key Concepts** that consolidate information fundamental to a specific knowledge area. For example, the section on adaptive life cycles will present the key concepts of a schedule model, different schedule methodologies, and the necessity of keeping a flexible schedule.
 - **Trends and Emerging Practices** that are not yet widely used will be presented for each section. For example, the scheduling section will present practices such as iterative scheduling with a backlog and on-demand scheduling.
 - **Tailoring Considerations.** These will describe aspects of the project or environment that should be considered when developing plans for the project; such as the stability of the requirements and the type of development lifecycle that should be used based on the requirements.