

# PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition Sunset Plan FAQ

## Table of Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. How is PMI retiring the <i>PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition</i> ? .....  | 1 |
| 2. Why is PMI sunsetting the <i>PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition</i> ?.....   | 2 |
| 3. How does the retirement of the <i>PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition</i> affect CAPM® candidates?.....   | 2 |
| 4. How does the retirement of the <i>PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition</i> affect PMP® candidates?.....  | 2 |
| 5. How does the retirement of the <i>PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition</i> affect the course material Authorized Training Partners use to teach PMP® exam prep courses?..... | 3 |
| 6. What format will the new resource to support the Process Groups Model be in and when can we expect it?.....  | 3 |
| 7. Where can I send additional questions?.....  | 3 |

### 1. How is PMI retiring the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition*?

As of 31 March 2022, PMI has started the phased process of retiring or sunsetting, the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition*. Stakeholders may continue to purchase print copies through retailers and resellers, but only while supplies last. Once the stock is depleted, PMI will not reprint additional copies of the Sixth Edition.

However, we know that many professionals still refer to and use the Sixth Edition in their daily work. Therefore, after 31 March 2022, we are maintaining several different ways stakeholders can access the content for the foreseeable future.

- PMI members can download a free PDF of the edition and non-members will be able to purchase it in an eBook format, both in English and other languages currently supported.
- Stakeholders can gain digital access to the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* content via PMIstandards+™. PMI members can access it free, and non-members can access it via a monthly subscription.
- The Sixth Edition will remain available through select Library Subscription Services where prior licensing agreements are in place.

PMI recognizes and supports the Process Groups Model outlined in the Sixth Edition as one of several valid and reliable models. PMI is developing a new resource dedicated to supporting the Process Groups Model, with plans to announce it later this year.

We will continue to provide standards-related updates and links to helpful resources and informational sessions through our dedicated web page: [pmi.org/standards-projects](https://pmi.org/standards-projects).

## 2. Why is PMI sunsetting the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition*?

The *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* was published in July 2021 and includes the current ANSI accredited *Standard for Project Management*. The 2021 standard supersedes the 2017 standard contained within the Sixth Edition.

## 3. How does the retirement of the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* affect CAPM® candidates?

The CAPM® exam will change in 2022, as mentioned on the CAPM® certification webpage [here](#). Until then, we have taken steps to help ensure the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* retirement has minimal impact on the exam prep experience for CAPM® candidates.

- Up until 31 March 2022, CAPM® candidates can purchase print copies of the Sixth Edition as usual.
- After 31 March 2022
  - CAPM® candidates can continue to purchase print copies of the Sixth Edition, but only while supplies last.
  - PMI members can download a free PDF of the edition and non-members will be able to purchase it in an eBook format, both in English and other languages currently supported.
  - Stakeholders can gain digital access to the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* content via PMIstandards+™. PMI members can access it free, and non-members can access it via a monthly subscription.

When we plan to sunset the eBook and member PDF download formats of the Sixth Edition, additional communication will come well in advance.

## 4. How does the retirement of the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* affect PMP® candidates?

It is important to remember that the PMP® exam is not based on the *PMBOK® Guide*, but rather on the exam content outline (ECO). Here is how it works:

- When a volunteer writes a new question for the PMP® exam, they draw on industry knowledge from real-life practice and content outlined in the ECO.
- They write the question, and must then find two reference books from [this approved list of references](#) to validate the question.
- Before any validated exam item is added to the exam, there is a very rigorous and thorough review and field test cycle, which takes multiple months.

Therefore, while the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* is now included on the approved reference list, exam questions are NOT FROM the title itself. And the best way to prepare for the PMP exam is to review the current ECO document and either: 1) take an instructor-led exam prep workshop from our global network of our [Authorized Training Partners](#) or 2) take our self-paced, online [PMI®](#)

[Authorized On-demand PMP® Exam Prep](#), while using the *PMBOK® Guide* as one of your references.

**5. How does the retirement of the *PMBOK® Guide* – Sixth Edition affect the course material Authorized Training Partners use to teach PMP® exam prep courses?**

The retirement of the *PMBOK® Guide* – Sixth Edition will not impact the licensed course materials provided to Authorized Training Partners. Those course materials are created based on the ECO, not the *PMBOK® Guide*.

**6. What format will the new resource to support the Process Groups Model be in and when can we expect it?**

PMI is developing a new resource supporting the Process Groups Model that will also incorporate Knowledge Area guidance along with prescriptive content for Inputs, Tools and Techniques and Outputs. We are currently evaluating the needs of the market in order to recommend an appropriate format. We expect to announce this resource along with a delivery date, later this year.

**7. Where can I send additional questions?**

Send your questions to [standards@pmi.org](mailto:standards@pmi.org). If you are a chapter leader you can also send your questions to your chapter partners.