

## **PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition FAQs**

### **1. Why is PMI changing *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide)*?**

For years, the *PMBOK® Guide* has been the go-to resource for helping practitioners use good practices to deliver value on the job. However, practitioners have told us that the guide needs to evolve to stay current with rapid enhancements in technology and the need for organizations and practitioners to more quickly adapt to changes in the market. Practitioners are now tasked with identifying the right delivery approach (predictive, adaptive, or hybrid) to get the job done and deliver value. To make sure the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* remains relevant, it must reflect this flexibility and assist the practitioner in managing the project at hand to deliver outputs that enable envisioned outcomes.

### **2. What is different about the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition*?**

The plan for the next edition reflects the full range of development approaches, without preference of one over another. Instead of focusing solely on deliverables of projects, we are putting the focus on project outcomes, too.

Here are some examples of the changes you will see:

- a. A shift in the Standard from Process Groups to principles—a set of statements that guide the actions and behaviors of project management practitioners regardless of development approach.
- b. A shift in the Guide from Knowledge Areas to project performance domains. A performance domain is a group of related topics that are critical for the effective delivery of project outcomes regardless of development approach.
- c. A new section in the guide devoted to tailoring. The topic of tailoring existed in previous editions of the *PMBOK® Guide*; but, with this update, an entire section is focused on the subject and provides a framework for undertaking the tailoring process.
- d. A new section in the guide lists common models, methods and artifacts available to project practitioners. This new section provides a brief description and maps each model, method and artifact to one or more of the project performance domains where it might be most applicable/useful.

### **3. When is the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* expected to be released?**

The current development plan anticipates release in early 2021. The content will be available digitally, as an eBook and in print.

### **4. How does the change to the *PMBOK® Guide* impact the Project Management Professional (PMP)® certification exam? The Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)® certification exam?**

It is important to remember that the *PMBOK® Guide* is an input to preparing for exams—and is listed as a reference—but it is **not a test-preparation tool**. Both the PMP exam and CAPM exam use many sources for question development.

The PMP certification exam questions are developed based on the certification exam content outline, which is informed by research regarding the evolution of the profession. The *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* remains one of several references useful for exam preparation. Information about PMI certifications and future changes can be found at [www.PMI.org/certifications](http://www.PMI.org/certifications).

Specific information about the CAPM certification exam and any future changes can be found at [www.PMI.org/certifications](http://www.PMI.org/certifications).

**5. Does this mean that content from prior editions is no longer valid/should no longer be referenced?**

No. The message reinforced in the next edition is that there are many approaches that can lead to a successful outcome. The project professional needs to choose the right tools based on project context with a view to enabling envisioned outcomes. However, the next edition is structured to better align with how people work today, with additional flexibility and a focus on project outcomes.

**6. By adding additional flexibility, are you implying the prior editions were rigid?**

The important takeaway is that the pending update avoids prescribing any specific solution because there is no one right answer for every situation. Project teams today have an expanding range of options and the next edition recognizes that and works to focus on what might need to be considered when evaluating options.

**7. What is the update process and who was involved?**

The development of the revised standard followed our established and ANSI-aligned development processes, while 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.

**8. How and where can I learn more about the development of the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition*?**

Visit our content hub at [pmi.org/standards-projects](https://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.

**9. Will the *PMBOK® Guide* 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 early 2021.

**10. What is the difference between the standard and the guide?**

*The Standard for Project Management* is the document that carries the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) designation. A standard is a document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, which provides for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context. A *Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge* provides a framework for applying the standard.