

***PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition FAQs***  
***Updated 1 July 2021***

If you have other questions, please feel free to contact us at [PMBOK\\_Guide\\_Team@pmi.org](mailto:PMBOK_Guide_Team@pmi.org).

***About the PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition***

**1. Why did PMI change *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 structure of the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition*?**

Overall, the goal with the seventh edition of the *PMBOK® Guide* was to make the content more user-friendly and relevant to project managers using predictive, hybrid and adaptive, or agile, approaches.

- The Seventh Edition puts the focus on project outcomes in addition to deliverables.
- There is also an entire section dedicated to the topic of tailoring.
- The Process Groups and ITTOs are referenced throughout the Seventh Edition but are no longer fully included in the publication – we will continue to make them available through digital offerings, like PMIstandards+™.

**3. 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.

**4. Does the release of the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* mean that content from prior editions is no longer valid?**

Key learnings and concepts from the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition* remain valid and are referenced in sections of the 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.

**5. Can I still use Process Groups and Knowledge Areas?**

Yes. In fact, Process Groups is one of the models in the Models, Methods, and Artifacts section of the guide. The concepts from the Knowledge Areas can be seen in multiple project performance domains.

**6. 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 standard and guide do not prescribe a particular approach. Multiple approaches fit within the principles of the standard and the project performance domains described in the guide.

**7. Are agile principles 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 *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.

**8. 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+™](#).

**Publication-Related**

**9. Where can I get a copy?**

As of 1 July 2021, members can download a free PDF of the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* via the product page on [pmi.org](#). Members and non-members can purchase the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* in an eBook and print formats via [IPG](#). Distributors and resellers have started shipping English-language versions of the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* print format on a rolling basis based on availability at their warehouses.

**10. How much will it cost?**

The list price of the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* is US\$99. PMI members are able to access a digital PDF version of the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* in English for free and can purchase a print copy at a discounted rate, if they so choose.

Visit [pmi.org](#) for a list of shopping options based on your region.

**11. What is the discount on the print copy with my PMI membership?**

Members in North America receive a 50 percent discount via IPG and members outside of North America receive a 40 percent discount (via Eurospan) and free shipping.

**12. When will you have a version in my local language?**

The *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* will initially be available in English, with translations to follow in late summer/early autumn 2021, first with the PDF and eBook in August and then with translated print editions by mid-October.

PMI is making the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* available in following languages: Arabic, Chinese (simplified), English, French, German, Italian, Korean, Brazilian Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

**13. What is the status of the Japanese translation? You originally indicated that the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* would be available in Japanese.**

The PMI Japan chapter has licensed the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* content for translation so PMI will not be distributing the Japanese translation. This translation will be available through the Japan Chapter. The anticipated publication date for the Japanese-language version is 1 November.

**14. I read verbatim content will be available in PMIstandards+™ in mid-August, but original content and translations will follow. What does that mean?**

Although we were able to accelerate some of our plans, other aspects, including translations and migration of content to PMIstandards+™, cannot be expedited as quickly. 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).

*Relationship to Other PMI Offerings*

**15. Does this mean the PMP® Exam is going to be changing soon?**

It is important to note that the PMP® exam is based on the Exam Content Outline, not on the *PMBOK® Guide*. The Exam Content Outline summarizes the research conducted to create the PMP® exam and includes the most critical tasks required for project managers to master in their role. The current Exam Content Outline, dated January 2021, was designed to stay relevant for the foreseeable future, and PMI will give advance notice to the public before a new ECO and corresponding exam is launched.

The *PMBOK® Guide* is one of numerous potential inputs to preparing for the exam—and is listed as a reference—but it is not a test-preparation tool. The PMP® exam is created based on the exam content outline and uses many sources for question development.

Visit <https://www.pmi.org/certifications/project-management-pmp/earn-the-pmp/pmp-exam-preparation/pmp-reference-list> for more information.

**16. 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.

**17. How does the release of the *PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition* impact the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM®) certification exam?**

The current CAPM® exam is based on the *PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition*. Continue using the Sixth Edition as your test preparation tool. More detail can be found in the [CAPM® handbook](#).

## *Development Process*

### **18. What was 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.

### **19. 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](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.