PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition FAQs
Updated 1 December 2021

If you have other questions, please feel free to contact us at 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 **Does the release of the PMBOK® Guide – Seventh Edition mean that the PMBOK® Guide – Sixth Edition is no longer valid?**
   While key learnings and concepts from the *PMBOK® Guide* – Sixth Edition remain valid, the updated *Standard for Project Management* (ANSI/PMI 99-001-2021) contained in the seventh edition supersedes the prior version (ANSI/PMI 99-001-2017) of standard.

   The *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition is designed to encourage project leaders, teams and organizations to take a step back and pressure test their ways of getting work done. Rather than default to the traditional models and ways of working, the concepts in the new edition provide a new lens to determine if the models and tools used in the past continue to be the best models today.

   For example, we recognize that many project managers have used specific elements like the Process Groups and ITTOs very successfully in their own project environments. With the seventh edition, we

ask project professionals to first consider the 12 principles of project management to see if there is a different approach to consider before defaulting to Process Groups.

5. **Am I still able to purchase the *PMBOK® Guide* – Sixth Edition and how long will it remain available?**
The *PMBOK® Guide* – Sixth Edition will be available for purchase and download through 31 March, 2022. At this time, it will no longer be available for purchase or download through PMI, though resellers may still have copies for sale. Those who already have this edition on their bookshelf can continue to reference it, with the understanding that the current, ANSI-accredited version of *The Standard for Project Management* is contained in the seventh edition.

Elements from the Sixth Edition, such as Process Groups, will be maintained as a valid model going forwarded. This content will be refined and made available through PMIstandards+™, a digital companion to PMI's standards and guides (LINK).

Access to PMIstandards+ is FREE for PMI members, and non-members may subscribe for a low, monthly price.

6. **Can I still use Process Groups and Knowledge Areas?**
Yes. After reflecting on the 12 project management principles, you may determine that a process-based approach is the best way to deliver project outcomes for your environment in alignment with the principles and project performance domains. 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.

7. **How does this change fit with other published approaches, such as PRINCE2®, ITIL, Disciplined Agile™ and others?**
We recognize there are many ways of working 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.

8. **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.

9. **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+™.

10. Where can I get a copy?
Members can download a free PDF version 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, Eurospan, and other resellers.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. When will you have a version in my local language?
The eBooks for Arabic, French, German, Italian, Korean, Brazilian Portuguese, Russian and Spanish are available now. The eBook for Chinese (simplified) will be available in late-October. The translated print editions will be available by mid-October, with the exception of Chinese, which is scheduled to be available in December.

14. 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.

15. What is PMIstandards+™ and how does it relate to the *PMBOK® Guide* and other standards and guides?
FREE for PMI members, PMIstandards+™ is a digital companion that provides quick access to the PMBOK® Guide, other PMI standards and guides and exclusive content to help you on the job. This resource makes it easy to search a collection of original case studies, articles, videos, downloadable templates, and more. PMIstandards+ content is developed with practitioner expertise, aligned to PMI's standards and guides, and tailored to industry, approach, and goals. Access is available to non-members through a monthly subscription.

16. When will the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition be available in PMIstandards+?
The content of the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition is now available on PMIstandards+ (English only). For access to the PDF version, PMI members can download their free copy via the product page on pmi.org. Members and non-members can purchase the *PMBOK® Guide* – Seventh Edition via IPG, Eurospan and other resellers.

Relationship to Other PMI Offerings

17. **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.

18. **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.

19. **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. More detail to help you prepare for the CAPM ® exam can be found in the CAPM® handbook.

Development Process

20. **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.

21. **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 to find downloadable resources and links to past webinars which provide insight into the concepts and thought processes that the volunteer team members worked through as they developed the content of the new edition.