

We have had some questions regarding the release of the PMBOK® Guide—Fourth Edition and how it will affect the credential examinations, specifically about the timing of when the examinations would be updated. Below are detailed replies to that question as well as another frequently asked question, from Betsy Redden, PMP Examination Developer, Project Management Institute.

1. When does PMI intend to update the credential examinations?

When an update to a standard, such as the PMBOK® Guide—Fourth Edition, is released—approximately six months later PMI begins rotating in questions from the new edition. See approximate timing for each credential examination below for a general point of reference:

Credential	Examination Updated/ Examination Translation Aid Available	Version of PMBOK® Guide to study for credential examination*
PMP	June 2009	PMBOK® Guide— Fourth Edition
CAPM	July 2009	PMBOK® Guide— Fourth Edition
PMI-SP	August 2009	PMBOK® Guide— Fourth Edition
PMI-RMP	August 2009	PMBOK® Guide— Fourth Edition
PgMP	August 2009	The Standard for Program Management—Second Edition; PMBOK® Guide— Fourth Edition

**Please remember that standards are only one reference in the full project management body of knowledge, therefore a sudden change in the examination does not occur.*

2. What are the differences between the Third Edition and the Fourth Edition of the PMBOK® Guide?

The fourth edition reflects a focus on improved consistency and clarity. Great consideration was given by the project teams to remove redundant information and add clarifying statements where needed. The PMBOK® Guide—Fourth Edition continues the tradition of excellence in project management with a standard that is easy to understand and implement.

Significant improvements were made to improve readability. Terminology was updated only to present them consistently in a verb-noun format. Therefore, only a small percentage of examination items/questions require updates that address actual knowledge. See below for specifics.

The major differences between the Third Edition and the Fourth Edition are summarized below:

1. All process names are in a verb-noun format
2. Efforts were made to distinguish between Enterprise Environmental Factors and Organizational Process Assets.
3. A standard approach for discussing requested changes, preventive actions, corrective actions and defect repairs was employed.
4. The processes decreased from 44 to 42. Two processes were deleted, two processes were added and 6 processes were reconfigured into 4 processes in the procurement knowledge area.
5. To provide clarity a distinction was made between the project management plan and project documents used to manage the project.
6. The distinction between the information in the Project Charter and the Project Scope Statement was clarified.
7. The process flow diagrams at the beginning of chapters 4-12 have been deleted and replaced with data flow diagrams.
8. A data flow diagram for each process has been created to show where information comes from as an input and where it goes to as an output.
9. A new appendix was added that addresses key interpersonal skills that a project manager utilizes when managing a project.

A complete list of changes can be found in Appendix A of the Fourth Edition.