



At-a-Glance: Electronic Media in Related Instruction Apprenticeship Final Rule, 29 CFR Part 29

How is electronic media addressed in the revised regulations?

The revised regulations, specifically § 29.5(b)(4), include electronic media among the ways that a registered apprenticeship program can meet the requirements to provide organized, related instruction in technical subjects related to the occupation.

Electronic media is defined in § 29.2 to mean media that utilize electronics or electromechanical energy for the end user to access the content (e.g. electronic storage media, the Internet, extranets, private networks, etc). The revised regulations do not require apprenticeship programs to use electronic media; rather they permit use of electronic media as a tool to support industry learning styles. The extent to which an apprenticeship program incorporates electronic media depends on the learning objectives of the particular occupation associated with an apprenticeship program. The regulations retain other methods of related instruction such as classroom, occupation or industry courses, or other instruction approved by the Registration Agency.

How was the issue addressed in the original regulations?

Previously, the regulations did not specifically authorize the use electronic media as a means to provide related instruction.

What is the reason for the change?

By including the use of electronic media in the definition of related instruction, the revised regulations now fully support technology-based and distance learning. The inclusion of electronic media is necessary to align the National Apprenticeship System with technological advances and appropriate industry application of such advances in the delivery of related instruction. For further information, please refer to pages 64409-64410 of the Federal Register Notice for the final rule (73 FR 64402, Oct. 29, 2008).

What are the next steps?

The final rule was published October 29, 2008, in the Federal Register, and takes effect on December 29, 2008. The final rule provides State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAAs) with two years from the effective date, with extensions as needed, to implement necessary changes.

The Office of Apprenticeship (OA) recognizes that program sponsors and providers of related instruction may require more information and clarification regarding electronic media. OA will consult with SAAs to develop and issue further guidance illustrating the appropriate use of electronic media. This information will be posted on the OA regulations Web page, www.doleta.gov/oa/regulations.cfm.

For more information about the revised regulations, please contact OA at (202) 693-2796 or Regs.Apprenticeship@dol.gov.