



At-a-Glance: Provisional Registration Apprenticeship Final Rule, 29 CFR Part 29

What is provisional registration, and how is it addressed in the revised regulations?

The revised regulations, specifically § 29.3(g), require Registration Agencies to give one-year provisional approval to all newly registered programs that meet the required standards for program registration. At the end of that year, programs must be evaluated for compliance and may either:

- Receive full recognition;
- Continue in provisional status through the first full training cycle; or
- Be recommended for deregistration procedures, if not in operation or not conforming to the regulations during the provisional approval period.

Section 29.3(h) provides that a satisfactory review at the end of the first year or first full training cycle will result in removal of provisional approval. Subsequent reviews will be completed after a satisfactory review at the end of the first full training cycle, and must be conducted no less frequently than every five years. The regulations do not preclude a State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA) from conducting reviews more frequently than prescribed.

How was this issue addressed in the original regulations?

Previously, the regulations did not address provisional registration.

What is the reason for the change?

The provisional registration and reviews are intended to encourage development of a close working relationship between the apprenticeship sponsor and the Registration Agency staff. New programs will receive provisional approval for one year and then will undergo review by the Registration Agencies. After one year, programs meeting the regulatory standards may either be permanently approved or have their provisional registration extended through the end of the first training cycle. This enhanced coordination between program sponsors and Registration Agency staff will help increase the quality and success rate of new programs. For further information, please refer to page 64407 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 SAAs with two years from the effective date to implement necessary changes.

The Office of Apprenticeship (OA) recognizes that program sponsors and SAAs may require more information and clarification regarding provisional registration. OA intends to issue additional operational, procedural and policy guidance to provide further explanation about provisional registration and other aspects of the final rule. These technical assistance materials and guidance about final rule implementation will be posted on the OA's 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.