

News Release



U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
Release Number: 08-1491-NAT

For Immediate Release
Oct. 29, 2008
Contact: Terry Shawn Jennifer Kaplan
Phone: 202-693-4676 202-693-5052

U.S. Department of Labor issues regulations increasing flexibility of national Registered Apprenticeship system

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor today issued a final rule that updates labor standards for the nation’s Registered Apprenticeship programs. The revised regulations create more flexibility, improve quality, and increase accountability to keep pace with changes related to 21st century employment opportunities.

“These regulations have been revised for the first time since 1977 to advance Registered Apprenticeship’s strengths in developing a skilled, competitive workforce for the 21st century global economy,” said Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Brent R. Orrell. “The changes we are instituting through these new rules will create more options for employers and position Registered Apprenticeship to engage today’s growing industries, while ensuring the safety of apprentices and the quality of programs.”

The revised regulations create more flexibility for apprentices and employers, providing each with increased choices to meet the needs of industries that have traditionally used Registered Apprenticeship programs, as well as connecting with the workforce demands of new and emerging industries. The most significant changes to the regulations include:

- The creation of multiple training approaches that increase flexibility for employers to select which path best serves an apprentice’s or employer’s needs. Options include a:
 1. Traditional, time-based approach, which requires the apprentice to complete a specific number of OJT and RTI hours.
 2. Competency-based approach, which requires the apprentice to demonstrate competency in the defined subject areas and does not require any specific hours of On-the-Job Training (OJT) or Related Technical Instruction (RTI).
 3. Hybrid approach, which requires the apprentice to complete a minimum number of OJT and RTI hours and demonstrate competency in the defined subject areas.
- Interim credentials that offer active apprentices official recognition of accomplishments and equip apprentices with a portfolio of skills and incentives to continue their career preparation and complete their programs.
- Increased options for using electronic media to provide related technical instruction to apprentices. This change is designed to take advantage of technological advances that allow for distance learning and other technology-based instruction.
- The enhancement of program performance and accountability standards.

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking appeared in the *Federal Register* on Dec. 13, 2007. The final rule appears in today’s *Federal Register* at

<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocumentDetail&o=0900006480782b0a>.

###

U.S. Department of Labor releases are accessible on the Internet at www.dol.gov. The information in this news release will be made available in alternate format (large print, Braille, audio tape or disc) from the COAST office upon request. Please specify which news release when placing your request at 202-693-7828 or TTY 202-693-7755. The Labor Department is committed to providing America’s employers and employees with easy access to understandable information on how to comply with its laws and regulations. For more information, please visit www.dol.gov/compliance.