

Apprenticeship Final Rule Policy Guidance to be Developed

The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Apprenticeship (OA) has issued a final rule that updates labor standards for the National Apprenticeship System. 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 up to an additional two years from the effective date to implement necessary changes.

OA recognizes that as stakeholders in the National Apprenticeship System, particularly program sponsors and State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAAs), begin to review the final rule and prepare to implement the revised regulations, some provisions may require clarification.

As of November 10, 2008, OA has identified seven (7) issues in the final rule for which policy guidance will be developed. The following list of issues is not exhaustive; additional issues will be added based on feedback and dialogue with stakeholders.

- Provisional registration, § 29.3(g) & (h)
- Competency-based apprenticeship, § 29.5(b)(2)
- Electronic media and related technical instruction, § 29.5(b)(4)
- Transfer of Apprentices, § 29.5(b)(13)
- Interim credentials, § 29.5(b)(16)
- Program performance standards, § 29.6
- Materials necessary for SAA's recognition and continued recognition, §29.13(c)

OA will consult closely with National Apprenticeship System stakeholders, including State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAAs), the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship, and program sponsors, during the development of these guidance documents. These guidance documents and other regulation-related materials will be posted on the regulations page of OA's Web site, www.doleta.gov/oa/regulations.cfm.

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