



At-a-Glance: Recognition of State Apprenticeship Agencies Apprenticeship Final Rule, 29 CFR Part 29

How is the Federal recognition of State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAA) and State Apprenticeship Councils (SAC) addressed in the revised regulations?

Under the revised regulations, specifically § 29.13(a), the Department will grant Registration Agency recognition solely to SAAs, not SACs.

How was the issue addressed in the original regulations?

Previously, the regulations provided that either a SAA or a SAC could be recognized as a Registration Agency, for Federal purposes.

What is the reason for the change?

Although SAC members represent diverse employer, labor and public interests and have knowledge and experience that enable them to be strong advocates for apprenticeship, SAC members are generally not state officials. The change ensures that a government entity can be held accountable for oversight and management of a state's apprenticeship system for Federal purposes. Such accountability is essential to the functioning of the National Apprenticeship System, especially when it comes to safeguarding the welfare of apprentices and promoting apprenticeship opportunity. SACs will continue to be required for advisory or regulatory purposes. The change benefits the National Apprenticeship System, SAAs and apprentices by establishing a clear path of accountability between the Department and recognized SAAs. For further information, please refer to pages 64417-64418 of the Federal Register Notice for the final rule (73 FR 64402, Oct. 29, 2008).

What are the next steps?

The revised regulations take effect on December 29, 2008, and provide SAAs with two years, with extensions as needed, from the effective date to implement necessary changes. OA intends to coordinate with SAAs to develop and issue guidance and procedures for recognition and continued recognition under the revised regulations. This information will be posted on the regulations page of the OA Web site, www.doleta.gov/oa/regulations.cfm.

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