

2018 CFM EXAM UPDATE FAQs

Why is CFM Exam being updated?

This is part of the regular process to keep the exam current and aligned with the results of the Global Job Task Analysis (GJTA). The GJTA is research study conducted every three to seven years to identify the tasks and work activities conducted, the context in which those tasks and activities are carried out, and the competencies (knowledge areas, skills and abilities) required to perform a job role (in this case, facility manager) competently.*

The results of this study produce the exam specification outline, which indicates the total number of exam questions for each competency area and topic subdomain. Subject matter experts and trained reviewers then use the this outline to develop the exam questions. This independent team creates a neutral, defensible exam that is not tied to any specific training event offered by any specific organization.

What's changing?

Currently, the exam consists of 180 questions, 15 of which are not scored. The updated exam has 160 scored items, with one set of 20 unscored pretest items. The testing time is still four hours.

When does the updated exam specification outline go into effect?

The current exam is available through Saturday, July 28, 2018. We will have a brief blackout period July 29 through Aug. 5 to implement updates with the testing provider. The updated exam will be available for test takers beginning Monday, Aug. 6. The process to apply to sit for the CFM exam isn't changing.

Who will use the updated exam specification outline?

Current and future CFM candidates who plan to sit for the exam on or after Aug. 6 will use the revised exam specification outline. This update doesn't impact the recertification process for existing CFMs.

Should I take the CFM Exam before it changes, or wait to take it on or after Aug. 6?

We recommend that you sit for the CFM Exam when you feel you're ready. There's no advantage to one versus the other — substantively, the updated test is neither easier nor more difficult than the previous test.

Will the updated exam specification outline change test prep materials, such as the Facility Management Learning System™ (FMLS)?

Keep in mind that completing FMLS coursework doesn't equate to earning the CFM. The FMLS remains a relevant and valuable optional resource for those who wish to fill in knowledge gaps prior to sitting for the CFM Exam.

**(Sackett, P.R., Laczko, R.M. (2003). Job and Work Analysis. Handbook of Psychology. One: 2: 19-37.)*

If I participated in an optional preparatory course such as the FMLS or a CFM Exam Prep Workshop, is the information still applicable?

Yes. All preparatory/training courses are completely independent of the certification exam. These optional resources support the recall, application and analysis competency-based exam, every question requires a candidate to perform some mental activity to arrive at a correct response.

Does this impact exam pricing?

No. The CFM Exam update is part of the regular process to keep education materials current, so this doesn't impact the price of the exam.

Where can I go for more information?

We've created a new CFM Candidate Handbook with information applicable to those sitting for the exam on or after Aug. 6, 2018. [Access the updated handbook »](#)

Does this impact other IFMA credentials/training?

No. The Facility Management ProfessionalTM (FMP[®]) and Sustainability Facility Professional[®] (SFP[®]) certificate programs are independent of the CFM certification.