

U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Office of Apprenticeship (OA) Washington, D.C. 20210	<u>Distribution:</u> A-541 Headquarters A-544 All Field Tech A - 5 4 7 S D + R D + S A A + ; Lab.Com	<u>Subject:</u> Flexibilities Available for the Delivery Method of Related Instruction <u>Code:</u> 400.1
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<p><u>PURPOSE:</u> To provide guidance to the staff of OA, State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAA), Registered Apprenticeship program sponsors and other Registered Apprenticeship partners that OA is supplementing Bulletin 2010-13 by providing flexibility regarding the requirements for approval for related instruction as set forth in the bulletin. Bulletin 2010-13 describes the requirements for the delivery of related instruction through the use of electronic media, as provided in § 29.5(b)(4) of Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 29, Labor Standards for Registration of Apprenticeship Programs. In lieu of the approval process outlined in Bulletin 2010-13, sponsors and partners must instead notify OA within 10 business days of any changes regarding new uses of online related instruction in their programs. Within 60 days of the change, sponsors and partners must provide OA the information described in Bulletin 2010-13.</p> <p><u>BACKGROUND:</u> The U.S. Department of Labor (Department) received inquiries from OA field staff concerning the method to deliver related instruction to registered apprentices through online means rather than in-person classroom instruction in light of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which has spread to a number of countries including the United States. As discussed below, the Department’s registered apprenticeship regulations allow sponsors to quickly move related instruction online to avoid illness and infection.</p> <p>Consistent with the mandate in the National Apprenticeship Act (29 U.S.C § 50) that the Secretary of Labor shall “formulate and promote the furtherance of labor standards necessary to safeguard the welfare of apprentices,” the Department is committed to ensuring that apprentices receive related instruction in safe environments. The Department is sending this bulletin as a reminder that § 29.5(b) (4) of the regulations, which stipulate the content of apprenticeship program standards, provides that “instruction in technical subjects may be accomplished through media such as classroom, occupational or industry courses, electronic media, or other instruction approved by the Registration Agency.” Electronic media, specifically, is defined in § 29.2 as “media that utilize electronics or electromechanical energy for the end user (audience) to access the content; and includes, but is not limited to, electronic storage media, transmission media, the Internet, extranet, lease lines, dial-up lines, private networks, and the physical movement of removable/transportable electronic media and/or interactive distance learning.”</p> <p>The Department encourages program sponsors to consider the use of such electronic media as a vehicle for delivering related instruction under the current exigent circumstances. The Department also encourages Registration Agencies to permit the usage of such electronic media in light of the global health pandemic. OA Bulletin 2010-13 provides a list of resources on the use of electronic media in related instruction.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please contact John V. Ladd, OA Administrator, at 202-693-2796.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> The OA and SAA staff should familiarize themselves with this bulletin.</p> <p><u>NOTE:</u> This Bulletin is being sent via electronic mail.</p>		