

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIRECTORY - update 23

The Professional Standards Directory can be found here:

<http://www.actuaries.org.uk/regulation/pages/professional-standards-directory-updates>

It is designed to permit members and others to access the current Board for Actuarial Standards' (BAS) standards together with the current version of the Actuarial Profession Standards (APSs).

ACTUARIAL PROFESSION STANDARDS

The Actuarial Profession has published two new APSs for pensions actuaries:

- Version 1.0 of Actuarial Profession Standard APS P1: Duties and Responsibilities of Pensions Actuaries comes into effect on 1 April 2011, and can be found at [APS P1](#)
- Version 1.0 of Actuarial Profession Standard APS P2: Compliance Review: Pensions also comes into effect on 1 April 2011, and can be found at [APS P2](#)

The introduction of APS P1 and APS P2 is part of the Actuarial Profession's GN Transitions Project designed to replace Guidance Notes (GNs) containing ethical material with APSs which will complement the BAS's Technical Actuarial Standards (TASs).

These new APSs signal a departure from a reliance on detailed rules to a more principles-based regime of ethical and professional standards.

Version 1.0 of APS P1 builds on the Actuaries' Code and sets out practice-specific ethical obligations for pensions actuaries working for trustees or similar governing and decision-making bodies. It replaces Guidance Note GN29, while also picking up ethical issues which are currently contained in other GNs to be withdrawn at midnight on 31 March 2011.

The main changes in APS P1 compared with ED24 (published on 15 December 2010) are:

- The difference between "must and should" has been explained;
- More explicit freedom has been provided in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3 to deviate from the standard form of written agreement with trustees in Appendix 1;
- Paragraph 3.6 on absence arrangements has been expanded upon;
- The extension in paragraph 5.2 to actuaries in roles that are analogous to the role of Scheme Actuary has been completely rewritten.

Version 1.0 of APS P2 sets out the criteria for the compliance review of work undertaken by Scheme Actuaries. It replaces GN48, including amendments to the scope of the work covered and to reflect the introduction of the TASs.

The main changes in APS P2 compared with ED25 (published on 15 December 2010) are:

- The difference between "must and should" has been explained;
- The attributes required to be a Reviewer (paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2) have been modified, so that the Reviewer not necessarily need to hold a Scheme Actuary Certificate;
- Some changes have been made to the order and wording of paragraphs 3.6 to 3.10 but the intention as regards the nature of the review required is unchanged;
- The transitional arrangements have been amended and now include reference to GN16 and GN28 (which had previously been expected to be withdrawn in April 2011).

BAS STANDARDS

The BAS is responsible for producing TASs and the Actuarial Profession is responsible for implementing those standards. Each body is responsible only for the content on its own website.

The BAS published its Pensions TAS in October 2010 which comes into effect with APS P1 and APS P2 on 1 April 2011.

APSs AND BAS STANDARDS BEING WITHDRAWN

Consequently, the following BAS adopted GNs are withdrawn from midnight 31 March 2011:

- GN9, GN21, GN26, GN34, GN36 and GN49.

Further details on the phasing out of the BAS adopted GNs can be found in the [letter from the Chair of the BAS](#) to the President of the Actuarial Profession dated 17 February 2011.

Similarly, the following APSs are withdrawn from midnight on 31 March 2011:

- GN29, GN48 and GN51.

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

A detailed consultation feedback and responses document is being prepared and will be published on the Profession's website as soon as it is available.

UPDATING YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

If you require to update your contact details, please contact the Membership Department (<mailto:membership@actuaries.org.uk>) or update them on-line at the members' only section of the profession's website at: <https://www.actuaries.org.uk/user>. To log in, please note that your user name is your ARN and your password is your date of birth entered as dd/mm/yyyy (including the separators) unless you have previously changed it.

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