

**Testing and Exam Committee**  
**Thursday, March 1, 2012**  
**Teleconference with Prometric**

Present: Patrick Hayes (Prometric), Andy Parker (Prometric), Chuck Thomas, Matt Oetker, Cindy Houlson

Chuck Thomas opened discussion with an overview of the Testing and Exam Committee interest in exploring if a catalog test would be a solution to the issue of test takers passing rate. He also shared the alternative solutions of dropping the existing number of questions and what impact that might have on the validity of the tests.

Andy Parker shared that Prometric wanted to be sure the Committee was aware of some concerns that they have about changing to catalog tests.

- Catalog does not have tests for all the Iowa trades, currently no hydronics test.
- Committee would lose the ability to choose questions.
- Passing rate for catalog tests are 70%
- Catalog tests are set at 70 questions for journey and 100 questions for master.
- Catalog tests change the contract and could open contract with increased costs.

Discussion continued and it was determined the best solution is to keep existing question bank and drop the number of questions. Going from 200 questions to 150 for the master test and 100 questions to 75 for the journey test and keeping the same distribution percentage that is in the current information bulletin will provide relief for those test takers that are running out of time.

Then after a one year period, the committee could evaluate the test results and determine if the change had increased the passing rate. If the failure rate continues to be too high, then it would be time to look at the possibility of moving to catalog tests.

Andy indicated that changes for updating all the exams and supporting documentation (CIB, Test Specs, and other test center documents) typically can take 3 months and that they are hopeful that would be the case here. He also said that they will try to have a timeline available to the committee prior to the March board meeting.