



Notice of Proposed Changes to the Acupuncture Regulations of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

November 2023

1. What is the purpose of the proposed regulations? What will these regulations do?

12 AAC 05.100; 12 AAC 05.220. These changes are cleaning up regulatory language, removing outdated information, and streamlining processes. No changes to requirements are being made.

12 AAC 05.110. Outdated national organization names are being updated; additional updates are being made to allow for more flexibility in licensure requirements. This change will allow acupuncturists who studied outside of the US to qualify for licensure if their education is determined equivalent by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM).

2. Under 12 AAC 05.110(b), why can an NCCAOM certificate be considered a determination that the institute has equivalent standards under (a)(3) of that section?

The NCCAOM verifies the education is sufficient before issuing a certificate. The department does not feel the need to duplicate efforts. The department will defer to the expertise of the NCCAOM to ensure licensing is as streamlined as possible.

3. Why are the Editor's Notes being removed?

For 12 AAC 05.110, the department will not maintain a list of schools approved. These are approved by the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (CCAHM), Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM), or NCCAOM. Rather than creating a department-specific list, we will refer applicants and licensees to these organizations to find the lists of approved schools.

For 12 AAC 05.220, this Editor's Note was created when hardcopy mail was a default form of communication. The NCCAOM website is easily accessible, and will be linked on the division's website. This will clean up regulation language, and avoid additional work if mailing addresses for national organizations change.

4. What are the costs to comply with the proposed regulations?

There is no expected cost to comply with the proposed regulations.

5. What are the positive and negative consequences of the regulations?

This change is not anticipated to have a negative impact on any person, business, or organization.

The impact on foreign-trained acupuncturists will be positive.

5. When will the regulations be effective?

After the public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Department for consideration. The Department may adopt the regulation as written/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in its whole. After Department action, the adopted regulations go to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the Lt. Governor for filing. Regulation takes effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the Lt. Governor.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.