

ARE Portal FAQs

December, 2012

What are the benefits of the new ARE portal?

The new portal will offer several benefits to candidates. Through My NCARB, they will:

- Have easier access to their authorization to test number, candidate number, testing history, and rolling clock information.
- Be able to view, print, and download future score reports directly from the portal.
- Receive reminders about upcoming rolling clock expirations, test activity requirements, and important messages from NCARB.
- Be able to update their name and address information.

In addition, the new portal offers new tools for Member Boards to assist candidates with questions. They will:

- Be able to view testing information for ALL candidates eligible through their jurisdiction (even if the jurisdiction participates in Direct Registration).
- Be able to create eligibilities for candidates made eligible directly through their jurisdiction.
- Receive electronic score reports and determine when they are viewable to the candidates managed directly by their jurisdiction.

More information about the new portal is coming soon!

What do the consultants have to do to get ready for the launch of the new portal?

On 1 July 2013, Prometric will turn off all access to its system to grade the final batch of exam divisions taken on or before 30 June 2013, and to begin the data migration with process to Alpine. During this time, an estimated eight-week blackout from all ARE-related testing systems will be in effect for Member Boards and candidates.

Why is the blackout expected to take eight weeks?

All data—both candidate related and content related—currently stored in Prometric’s system will be securely migrated to NCARB’s new candidate and content management consultant, Alpine Testing Solutions, Inc. This includes name and contact information, candidate number, eligibility history, and all test history, including dates of division administration, scores, form and vignette delivery, and all item responses for all ARE candidates administered since 1997. This equates to candidate and examination data for over 90,000 candidates—including those who have completed the ARE and those still in progress.

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Both consultants and the Council will be doing multiple levels of quality control checks to ensure the data is transferred accurately. In addition, a candidate's history will be linked with his or her NCARB Record when securely verified. Because of the amount of the information being migrated and the sensitive nature of the data, the blackout is estimated to be eight weeks. Our staff and consultant team will make every effort to expedite this process.

What can candidates do during the eight-week blackout?

While candidates will not be able to schedule or take any divisions of the ARE during the blackout, NCARB expects to have several resources available for candidates to review prior to the launch of the new portal. Updated guidelines and exam guides will be available for review as well as a webcast introducing the new processes post-blackout.

Candidates are encouraged to continue studying for the exams, as there will be no changes to the content post-blackout. They can contact their local AIA component or AIAS chapter to find study groups opportunities.

Will candidates receive an extension to their rolling clock?

Yes. NCARB will grant an automatic 12-week extension to the rolling clock, and is working with jurisdictions with their own rolling clock rules to ensure all candidates receive the same extension. If the blackout is shorter than originally estimated, candidates will still receive the full 12-week extension.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact Kathy Hillegas at 202/879-0540 or khillegas@ncarb.org.