

Statement for Vocational Expert Website Regarding Updates to the Vocational Expert Handbook

We updated the Vocational Expert (VE) Handbook to clarify expectations regarding evidence you provide. Below is a summary of the revisions:

- Updated to remove references to outdated materials that were included in footnotes, such as references to single decision makers and lack of reconsideration level review in some states.
- Updated the “What Happens at the ALJ Hearing” section on page 6 of the guide, to include the addition of telephone and online video hearings as hearing modalities that a VE should be prepared for when providing their testimony.
- Consistent with regulatory changes effective June 22, 2024, to how we consider past relevant work (PRW) revised the PRW history period from 15 years to 5 years and added the 30-day minimum threshold requirement for work to be considered PRW. Also updated the handbook throughout to remove rescinded Social Security Rulings (SSRs) and add citations to current SSRs, including SSR 24-1p: How We Apply the Medical-Vocational Profiles and SSR 24-2p: How We Evaluate Past Relevant Work.
- We added a section on Isolated Occupations and Occupations Requiring Heightened Evidentiary and Articulation Requirements, which cites to EM 24026 and EM 24027 and explains that some jobs may no longer be used or require additional evidence from the VE.
- We updated the section regarding SSR 00-4p and apparent conflicts.