The revised CFM Exam will launch on July 2, 2007!

In keeping with IFMA’s goal of ensuring that the Certified Facility Manager (CFM) certification is globally recognized as the most reliable standard for distinguishing the achievements of facility management, and in order to maintain its relevance to the practices of today’s facility manager, the CFM Exam has been updated. The exam was revised following proven psychometric principles under the guidance of professional exam development consultants, experts in the design, administration and interpretation of quantitative tests.

This major revision of the CFM Exam began in June 2005, with a review of the roles of today’s facility manager. The initial group of participating Certified Facility Managers represented various areas of facility management, as well as the public and private sectors. The initial three-day meeting included a review of the test definition document, a job task analysis workshop, creation of the exam blueprint, and the identification of the appropriate length and the number of questions in the revised exam.

The next step was a five-day Item Writing Workshop held in January 2006. Another diverse group of CFM subject matter experts convened to develop the exam questions needed to meet the objectives detailed on the exam blueprint. These highly focused objectives reflect what it takes to be competent in the facility management profession.

By following modern psychometric principles, it is no longer necessary to have a lengthy certification exam. The length of the test has been altered to reflect typical industry-wide certification exams. The revised exam consists of 180 questions and will measure the same concepts as on the current exam only in a shorter form.

Beta testing was completed in March 2007, and the revised exam is currently being assembled using those items proven psychometrically sound through statistical analysis. In layman's terms, “psychometrically sound” means that the item was answered correctly by those who should be able to answer correctly—such as current CFMs—but was not answered correctly by those who are clearly not qualified and who should not be able to answer correctly.

The current exam will be available through June 23, 2007, followed by a one-week changeover period during which no exam will be available. The revised exam will be launched July 2, 2007.

At the present time, candidates will be registered for the current exam period ending June 23. Those who do not take the exam prior to that date will be re-registered for the revised exam. Anyone wishing to take the revised exam may request that their eligibility begin July 2, 2007.

Questions? Please e-mail brenda.varner@ifma.org
What’s different about the revised CFM Exam?

First and foremost, it’s important to remember what has NOT changed:

- The competencies have not changed.
- The revised exam will measure the same concepts as the current exam, only in a shorter form.

Test structure
The exam consists of 180 questions delivered in random order. There are no pre-set sections. Passing score is based on the total number of correct answers. Candidates may mark questions they wish to skip and return to later. At the end of the exam, candidates will be alerted to any questions that have not been answered fully. If time allows, they will have the opportunity to return to complete those questions.

Breaks
There will be no scheduled breaks. Fifteen minutes have been added to the 3.75-hour testing period to enable examinees to take “bio breaks” as needed. Please note that the timer will continue to run.

Clear, concise language
To avoid ambiguity and vagueness, the new questions have been written, reviewed and edited to ensure that the language used is as precise as possible.

No more long scenarios
In the current CFM Exam, there are a number of scenarios that are followed by a series of questions using the same set of circumstances. In the revised exam, each question stands alone and contains all the information needed.

Multiple response questions
The test is still composed of multiple-choice questions. Some items, however, will ask for two correct responses to be selected and some will ask for three. These questions will clearly state “choose two” or “choose three,” and you will not be allowed to choose more than the required number. At the end of the exam, examinees will be alerted and given the opportunity to return to any questions that do not have the correct number of options selected. Each question counts as one right or one wrong regardless of how many options need to be selected. In order to have a question marked correct, all correct options must be given; there is no partial score.
Updated material
Following IFMA’s continuing practice since the inception of the CFM Exam, material has been updated to include current technologies and FM topics such as sustainability.

Exhibits
Overall, there are fewer exhibits, and all exhibits depict a single item or symbol. There are no large drawings such as the floorplans found on the current exam. However, in some cases, examinees will still need to scroll to the limits of the exhibit window in order to be sure they have seen the entire drawing.

Calculator
There will be no calculator needed or allowed for the exam. Candidates will be provided with scratch paper and pencil.

Glossary
For the current exam, IFMA provides a glossary that can be taken into the examination area. Once the revised exam is in use, this practice will be discontinued and no glossary or other written material may be taken into the examination area.