



July 14, 2014

REVISED

CIRCULAR LETTER #14/04

TO: BARBERING, COSMETOLOGY, ELECTROLOGY SCHOOLS, AND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM SPONSORS

SUBJECT: NEW SCORING METHODOLOGY FOR ALL EXAMINATIONS

In June 2012, the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (Board) amended Business and Professions Code section 932 changing the scoring methodology from raw scores to scaled scores for all license types, and will be implemented on **August 14, 2014**. **Please note the examinations remain the same, only the way that the examinations are being scored is changing.** Business and Professions Code section 932 now reads as follows:

- (a) "Examinations shall consist of a practical demonstration and a written test.
- (b) An applicant must obtain a passing score on both the practical demonstration and the written test. The board will determine the passing scores using a criterion-referenced method and based on the recommendation of subject matters experts under the direction of the Board and the Board's examination contractor."

The passing scores for the national examinations for all license types will be determined whenever a new examination is developed and will be reported as a scaled score. The scale ranges from 0 to 100, and the minimum passing scale score for all examinations will be **75**. A candidate must achieve a scaled score of **75** on each part (written and practical) of the examination for licensure, including barber candidates. If the candidate earns a scaled score of **74** or less on one or both parts of their examination, they will receive a score report (just like they do now), and will need to re-apply for the part(s) of the examination they failed. The passing score will still be good for one year.

Proper test development and psychometric procedures are employed to make certain that form difficulty is taken into account and that no candidate is at an advantage or disadvantage.

The cosmetologist, electrologist, esthetician and manicurist exams will still contain 100 scoreable items for the written part and the barbers written examination will increase from 40 items to **50** items. All written exams may contain pre-test items. These items are in random order throughout the examination and do not count toward or against the candidate's score.

If you have any questions, please email the Board at barbercosmo@dca.ca.gov. If you would like a more detailed explanation of the scoring methodology, please go to our webpage under the schools tab.

Sincerely,

KRISTY UNDERWOOD
Executive Officer