

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

We updated the Vocational Expert (VE) Handbook to clarify expectations regarding vocational evidence you provide. We incorporated additional policy references and information from the Hearings, Appeals, and Litigation LAW manual or HALLEX located at [https://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/hallex/hallex-I.html](https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/hallex/hallex-I.html). For example, we explained on page 6 of the Handbook in a revision that the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) “is not required to permit testimony that is repetitive or cumulative, or to allow questioning that has the effect of intimidating, harassing, or embarrassing the witness.” This information is contained in [HALLEX I-2-6-60](#) “Testimony of Claimants and Witnesses.” Subsequently, on page 38, we also added a reference to [HALLEX I-2-6-74](#), “Testimony of Vocational Experts” when we described that you need to be prepared to provide a complete explanation for all of your answers, which may include addressing your experience and/or providing vocational resource materials that you rely upon.

We also made revisions in the VE Handbook on pages 36-37 further explaining what VEs should be prepared to provide in response to ALJs’ hypothetical questions as well as noting a best practice. While the VE Handbook has always indicated that ALJs will give claimants and their representatives a chance to ask you questions, we clarified on page 38, based on our experience, that you should be prepared to answer questions from the claimant and representative regarding the example occupations you cited and how they are performed. You should also be prepared to answer questions about the number of jobs in each occupation you cited and the basis for your estimates of the number of jobs as well as questions about Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) codes, if any, for the occupations you cited as well as any conflicts between your testimony and the DOT.