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NOCA Publishes Benchmarking Study***Practices and Requirements of Renewal Programs in Professional Licensure and Certification***

By James P. Henderson, Castle Worldwide

WASHINGTON, DC (March 3, 2009) – The National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) announced today the publication of a benchmarking study, *Practices and Requirements of Renewal Programs in Professional Licensure and Certification*. The research into these renewal programs began in late spring 2008 as an effort to supply a logical basis for such programs as they may be developed and refined. Information was obtained from over 330 organizations, including licensure bodies, centralized state agencies that oversee licensure in many professions, free-standing certifying bodies, professional associations, corporations, and others.

This study is crucial to the credentialing industry as the public and stakeholders rely on certifying organizations to ensure that certificants participate in on-going programs of recertification. Demonstrating appropriate rigor in renewal requirements enables certificants to show that they've met continued competence requirements in their profession and allows the public to have confidence in their skills. It was for this purpose that the research into current renewal program requirements and practices was undertaken. In addition to gathering data from an industry wide survey of licensure and certification organizations, the study includes a review of current literature on renewal requirements and practices.

"This study shows our commitment to producing high quality best practice information for the credentialing community and ensuring the public's confidence that certification programs are committed to on-going education. If you are in the credentialing industry and you want to know what the best practices in recertification are, this study is a must have document," stated Paul Grace, MS, CAE, President of NOCA. "NOCA is grateful to the tremendous efforts and contributions of the

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study's author, Jim Henderson, of Castle Worldwide, the advisory committee and the project sponsors and supporters.”

NOCA would like to thank the following additional sponsoring organizations who provided significant financial support to the project, National Board on Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists, and Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation. We would like to thank the following project supporters, American Nurses Credentialing Center, Financial Planners Standards Council, National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, and Pearson VUE, as well as contributions from Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics, Dental Assisting National Board, and CASTLE Worldwide Inc. Finally, thanks to Jim Henderson, PhD, of Castle Worldwide Inc, who was the primary author of the study.

The study is available to NOCA members at no charge and to non-NOCA members for a fee of \$75 per copy. To obtain a copy of the study please visit our website at www.noca.org.

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Established in 1977, NOCA is the international leader in setting quality standards for credentialing organizations and through its division, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), has provided over 30 years of accrediting services to the credentialing industry. NOCA's membership is composed of credentialing organizations, testing companies and individual professional development consultants. Through its annual conference, web seminars and publications, NOCA serves as the source for information on the latest trends and issues of concern to practitioners and organizations focused on certification, licensure and human resources development. NOCA and NCCA are headquartered in Washington, DC, with an office in Chicago. The Web site address is www.noca.org.

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