

AWS Exam Changes 2026

Dates and Decision Sheet: SAP-C03, DVA-C03, MLA-C02 Beta

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Every key date

Sep 29, 2026	MLA-C02 beta delivery began (English only, exam code ME1-C02).
Oct 27, 2026	Registration opens for SAP-C03 and DVA-C03. Full exam guides published.
Nov 16, 2026	Last day to take SAP-C02.
Nov 17, 2026	SAP-C03 general availability begins.
Nov 30, 2026	Last day to take DVA-C02.
Dec 1, 2026	DVA-C03 general availability begins.
Jan 14, 2027	MLA-C02 general availability (all languages). MLA-C01 retires in all languages.

Formats at a glance

Exam	Questions	Duration	Price (USD)
SAP-C03 (Professional)	75	180 minutes	\$300
DVA-C03 (Associate)	65 (50 scored, 15 unscored)	130 minutes	\$150, pass 720 of 1,000
MLA-C02 beta (Associate)	85	170 minutes	\$75 beta pricing, English only

Do not forget

- A credential earned on SAP-C02 or DVA-C02 stays active through its original expiration date.
- Full SAP-C03 and DVA-C03 exam guides, with domain weights, arrive on October 27, 2026.
- Two agentic AI microcredentials are free on AWS Skill Builder: AWS Securing Agent Identities
- Demonstrated and AWS Databases for Agentic AI Demonstrated. Timed labs, no multiple choice.

Which version should you book?

Tick your situation, then follow the action

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Decision checklist

- ☐ **I am nearly ready for SAP-C02 or DVA-C02**
Book the current exam before its last day (Nov 16 for SAP-C02, Nov 30 for DVA-C02). You earn the same certification title sooner, with mature courses and practice exams.
- ☐ **I am starting from zero**
Register for SAP-C03 or DVA-C03 when booking opens on October 27, 2026. Build the new AI content (Bedrock, AgentCore, AI security) into your plan from day one.
- ☐ **My voucher expires soon**
Spend it on whichever version fits the voucher window. A real attempt beats an expired voucher.
- ☐ **My employer pays for one attempt only**
Wait for the new version. Its blueprint matches the skills hiring managers will request through 2027.
- ☐ **I need the Machine Learning Engineer credential in English**
Take the MLA-C02 beta. MLA-C01 closed in English on September 28, 2026. The beta costs \$75 for 85 questions in 170 minutes, and AWS allows one beta attempt only.
- ☐ **I want free proof of hands-on agent skills**
Take the two new microcredentials on AWS Skill Builder. They are free, timed lab assessments with a Credly badge on passing.

Your 30-day plan

- Days 1 to 5: decide your version, mark your deadline, download the MLA-C02 exam guide if relevant.
- Days 6 to 12: close the AI gaps first (Amazon Bedrock, Bedrock AgentCore), one free microcredential.
- Days 13 to 20: one timed practice exam per week, aimed at your fixed date.
- Days 21 to 30: book through Pearson VUE, verify the exam code twice, taper to weak domains.

Source: AWS Training and Certification Blog, "Certification updates from AWS Training and Certification: September 2026" and "Prove your agentic AI skills: Two new Microcredentials now available" (aws.amazon.com). Prices in USD, as published by AWS. Always confirm the exam code before you pay.