



Joint Commission International Accreditation and Certification Policies
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Effective Date of Standards Policy

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Purpose. To define the date by which accredited and certified organizations will be expected to be in full compliance with revised standards and the date in which organizations seeking accreditation or certification may be surveyed under new or revised standards.

Definition. *Effective date* is defined as the date published on the cover of standards editions, after which all related accreditation and certification activities are conducted using those standards.

Policy. The views of key stakeholders, for example, accredited and certified organizations and the Regional Advisory Committee(s), are taken into account when setting an effective date for changes. An effective date is set for each new accreditation/certification standards' manual at the time of publication. The date which is effective for the standards will also apply to other changes in the manual, including: Accreditation Participation Requirements (APR), International Patient Safety Goals (IPSG) and a summary of key accreditation or certification policies found at the back of the standards manual. The effective date for a standards manual is set by JCI Standards according to the following:

- First editions of standards for a new JCI Accreditation Program is the publication date.
- Subsequent standards editions are six months following the official publication date.

Accreditation and certification surveys of all types are conducted under the standards in effect on the date at which the first day of the survey begins. No surveys are to be conducted using standards no longer in effect or not yet effective.

Standards will be published at least six months in advance of the effective date to provide time for organizations to come into full compliance with the revised standards by the effective date. The effective date will be the first day of the indicated month unless otherwise noted.

Other official accreditation and certification expectations that organizations must meet by the effective date of the standards every three years, include, but are not limited to the following:

- The official accreditation and certification policies are updated at least every three years and published at JCI Direct Connect (client portal; <https://customer.jointcommissioninternational.org/>) for accredited and certified organizations and the JCI website (<http://www.jointcommissioninternational.org>).