



# NCCA Policy Revision: One-Year Accreditation with Compliance Reporting Requirements

## Background

In late 2016, the NCCA introduced the option of granting accreditation [with compliance reporting](#). This option allows the Commission to grant accreditation pending the resolution of minor noncompliance with a limited number of *NCCA Standards*. For deficiencies that are quickly resolved (for example, a policy that has been updated but not changed on the program's website, or something that must be publicly available but is not readily located on the website or in the handbook), the Commission can grant accreditation for a full five years conditioned upon submission of satisfactory corrections within six months.

For a currently accredited program whose deficiencies will take greater effort to resolve (for example, a JTA that does not align with the program's policy on frequency or a panel that does not meet all requirements for representativeness) or where the number of deficiencies causes concern, the Commission has an additional option. They may extend accreditation for a limited period (no longer than one year) while the deficiencies are addressed. The program must regularly report its progress to the Commission through compliance reporting, and must become fully compliant within the one-year period or lose their accreditation.

The introduction of the compliance reporting option in 2016 was not intended to limit the Commission's ability to deny accreditation if the non-compliances pose a potential threat to public safety or protection, or to the integrity of the certification program. The intent was to allow a previously accredited program that had somehow failed to achieve full compliance the ability to meet the *Standards* again without losing its accreditation and possibly jeopardizing certificant status.

Beginning in 2022, the first round of programs given the *one-year with compliance reporting* accreditation decision were due for renewal. The Commission was surprised and concerned to find that some of these programs were again determined to warrant this status. This was a clear indication that although these programs had resolved all deficiencies within one year as required, sustained improvement did not occur, which was the original intent.

## What is changing?

Rather than completely eliminating the option to award the one-year accreditation decision, the Commission voted to implement the following changes to the policy:

- If a program is awarded accreditation for *one year with compliance reporting*, they must resolve all deficiencies within that one-year period as currently required.
- After successful completion of their compliance reporting, the program will be scheduled for a mid-term audit of their program to occur at least once during the remaining four



years of their accreditation cycle. This audit will focus on the areas of deficiency previously identified in the compliance report with the intent of assuring that the program is continuing to operate in full compliance with the Standards. The NCCA retains sole discretion as to the timing of the audit and whether to schedule a second audit during the accreditation cycle.

- This revised policy will take effect concurrent with the implementation date of the revised 2021 NCCA Standards (for applications submitted with the January 31, 2023 deadline or later).
- Additional details on the implementation of this program will be released in the near future. The Commission hopes that by making this policy change, programs will recognize the importance of not only achieving, but also maintaining, ongoing full compliance with the *Standards*.