

WHAT'S NEW — 2019 STANDARDS

January 2019

Below are the key changes to “what’s new” to the 2019 standards. This is for reference purposes only and may not include all revisions and/or changes.

Who ACA Accredits:

- **US-based camps** with at least one program that occurs in the United States or its territories.
- Programs with a **primary audience** of campers five years and older*.
- Program sessions being at least **three days in length**, with a specific purpose and goals.

*Many camps offer programs that serve *some* three- or four-year-old campers. If this is the camp’s *primary* audience, accreditation or licensure through a different organization is most appropriate.

New Sections

NOTE: Accredited camps are responsible not only to meet state and local laws, but also to meet the requirements defined by ACA standards. The newly identified sections of the *Accreditation Process Guide* are:

- **Core/foundational standards (CR)** include the goals and outcomes of the camp, respect for campers and staff, camper development, and general condition of facilities.
- **Administrative standards (AD)** include policies and procedures for which key administrative staff are responsible for writing and distributing. Topics include transportation, risk management, emergency procedures, policies related to camp staff, and various program areas.
- **Facilities standards (FA)** include provision of adequate sleeping quarters in resident camps, safe playgrounds, storage of hazardous materials, and food service.
- **Health and wellness standards (HW)** include availability of first-aid equipment and personnel, the use of health histories and health examination forms, and the use of recommended treatment procedures.
- **Staff qualifications, training, and supervision standards (ST)** include qualifications for various staff roles, required staff training, supervision of camp staff, and camper-to-staff supervision ratios.
- **Program standards (PD and PA)** include safety regulations and procedures for conducting both general and specialized activities, such as aquatics, horseback riding, challenge and adventure activities, and trip and travel camping programs.

New Related to the Standards (2019 standard number/title in *italics*)

NOTE: This list includes an abbreviated description and it is important to read the standard in its entirety.

Standards were combined. These include:

- **AD.19 Safety Orientation and Emergency Plan** includes OM.8.1 (Emergency Plan) and OM.9.1 (Safety Orientation)
- **AD.32 Program Eligibility for Camp Programs** includes PD.4 (Program Eligibility) and PT.6.1 (Trip Eligibility)
- **AD.33 Activity Information and Permission** includes PD.6.1 and PD.6.2 and PT.6.2 parts B and C
- **AD.35 Trip Itinerary/Designated Person** includes PD.11.1 (Details and Designated Person) and PT.10.1 (Trip Itinerary)
- **AD.45 Vendor Provided Specialized Activities** includes PD.18.1, PD 23.1, and PD.38 (Safety Orientation/Safety and Emergency Procedures/Public Providers of Specialized Activities)
- **HW.9 Healthcare Policies** includes HW.11.2 Healthcare Polices — scope and authority and HW.12.1 Treat Procedures

- *HW.18 First-Aid Kits* includes a more inclusive list of places a first aid kit should be accessible and covers what was in TR.10 Emergency Equipment and PA.10 First-Aid Kits (aquatics)
- *ST.7 First Aid, CPR/AED for Specialized Activities and Aquatics* includes PD.17, PA.5, and PA.23 (all asking for First Aid, CPR/AED certification)
- *ST. 12 Swim Lifeguard certification and skills* verification combines PA.3 Lifeguard Certification and PA.4 Skills Verification
- *ST.15 Watercraft Guard Certification-Rescue Skills Verification* combine PA.20 Watercraft Guard Certification and PA.21 Skills Verification
- *ST.23 Emergency Plan Rehearsal* combines the rehearsal part of OM.8 Emergency Plan and Rehearsal and OM.9 Safety Orientation
- *ST.26 Job Training for Specific Role* encompasses HR.10 Job Training and HR.13 Late-Hire Training (which was deleted as a stand-alone standard)
- *ST.34 Staff Observation* includes HR.20 Staff Observation, PD.16 Supervision of Activity Leaders, PA.2 Supervision of Activity Leaders and PT.3 Evaluation of Trip Leaders.
- *ST.35 General Camp Activities Supervision Ratios and Staff Age* includes HR.8 Camper Supervision Ratios and HR.9 Supervision Ratios Exceptions
- *ST.38 Camper Supervision Away from Camp or at Vendor Provided Program* includes PD.39, PA.35, PT.13, and PT.17 all related to supervision ratios
- *ST.41 Supervision Ratios for Specialized Program Activities and Trip/Extended Trip* includes PD.22 and PT.4 both related to supervision ratios
- *ST.42 Aquatic Supervision Ratios to include Trips and Extended Trips* includes PA.7 and PT.15 both related to supervision ratios
- *PD.2 Program Maintenance and Safety Checks* includes PD.8 and PT.11 both related to equipment checks and maintenance
- *PD.4 Documentation and Emergency Information for All Trips and Travel Programs* includes PD.10 Emergency Information and PT. 9 Trip Documentation and Emergency Information
- *PA.9 All Aquatic Sites Away from Camp* includes PA.16 Aquatic Sites Away from Camp Supervised by Camp Staff; PA.34 Public Aquatic Sites, and PT.16 Aquatic Locations
- *PA.12 PFDs* includes PA.24, PA.32 and PT.18 all related to use of PFDs
- *PA.13 Personal Watercraft* includes PA.25 and PA.36 related to use of personal watercraft
- *PA.14 Watercraft Activity Orientation* includes PA.26; PA.33 and PT.19 related to orientation of watercraft in various scenarios

Additional changes to standards include:

- AD.6 Accident Procedures (for transportation) now includes both campers and/or staff (vs. just campers as in the 2012 standard).
- AD.18 Camp Security and Active Threats; AD.19 Safety Orientation and Emergency Plan; and AD.20 Missing Person Procedure request the written policies. Training and rehearsal for the written policy for each area is included in ST.23, ST.24, and ST.25 respectively.
- There is no specific section related to Trip/Travel. Standards in that area have either been incorporated into other sections or are a “stand alone” standard in the appropriate section. It is important to carefully read the standards related to trip and extended trips.
- Using what was a called a “Staffed public facility” is now called *Vendor Provided/Public Facilities*
- There are three standards that have been moved to mandatory status
 - *AD.1/SF.3: Local Emergency Response/Contact with Local Officials*)
 - *AD.44/HW.28.2: Health Information Rental Groups/Health Information* (rental groups, family camp, short-term residential regarding the locking of medication)
 - *HW.13/HW.19: Medication Storage and Administration*
- Written charts for dishwashers and refrigerators/freezers are no longer required in FA.16 and FA.19.

- The term “licensed prescribers” is used in several locations where registered nurse or license healthcare professional was previously used (ST.2 Healthcare Provider, contextual education in HW.5, HW.6, and HW.17). For purposes of ACA, licensed prescriber means: *Individuals who are “licensed prescribers” are defined by state statute. This includes medical doctors (MDs) and may also include doctors of osteopathic medicine (DOs), nurse practitioners (NPs), and/or physician assistants (PAs). Licensed prescribers have the authority to prescribed medication for individuals.*
- The supervisor for specialized activities (ST.8), adventure/challenge and (ST.9) horseback (ST.10) now states the individual is to be 18 years of age (previously it either stated an adult or 21 years of age) and have documented experience of engaging in the activity within the past two years.
- The aquatics supervisor is now to be at least 18 years of age (vs. 21).
- Several standards in the FA section do not apply if a health inspection which includes the kitchen has been conducted within the past 15 months resulting in a passing score.
- ACA now allows camps/programs using a non-accredited site to score Does Not Apply (DNA) to several standards in the FA Section.
- The 2019 standards contain a significantly higher number of standards applicable to the short-term mode than prior standards. These are in both the AD and HW sections.
- Arm guards are no longer required for archery.
- The time frame for health exams has moved from twelve (12) to twenty-four(24) months.

Definition of Modes:

- **Short-term Camps:** Program is operated and staffed primarily by the camp.
 - Short-term resident camp: Three nights or fewer. Camp assumes responsibility of the campers 24 hours a day. *Note: As a general rule, family camps should be scored as this mode for HW standards.*
 - Short-term day camp: Session is fewer than 25 hours in a five-day period and campers always go home at the end of the day.
- **Resident Camps:** Sessions vary in length and are four nights or more. Camp assumes responsibility of the campers 24 hours a day. Program is operated and staffed primarily by the camp.
 - Extended trip-and-travel camp programs are typically resident-camp programs, at least three nights in length, and at times, do not have a base location.
 - Extended trip-and-travel program activities are based upon environments encountered as the group moves from location to location. Such programs run as an extension of resident camps (or day camps in some instances) or may be an exclusive trip-and-travel camp, specializing in only trip, travel, or tour programs.
- **Day Camps:** Sessions are more than 25 hours in a five-day period. Campers go home at the end of the day with an occasional overnight. Program is operated and staffed primarily by the camp.
- **Camps Serving Rental:** Involves other camps, groups, or programs that rent or lease the camp’s facilities, and perhaps some services, to operate their own camping programs or retreats. The rental group may be from within the camp’s parent organization.

New Related to the Process

- Written documentation common to all camps with the same operator being visited in a given year will be reviewed one time. The operator must identify this common documentation and share it with the designated visitor for review. This visitor will share the results with all other visitors assigned to the operator’s camps. *NOTE: This is a process which has been used with multi-site camps for several years.*
- For multi-site and at times, multi-camp operations, ACA will create a customized score form for the visitor to use. This provides both the camp and the visitor a clearer listing of what standards to be scored.
- The Camp Self-Assessment is called a Written Documentation Review.
- The Standards Course is now Accreditation Process Workshop.
- Once all required components of the Compliance Demonstration have been met, a standard can be scored. In most situations, this is the day of the visit.