

Criteria and Terms of Use for the ONC Certified HIT Certification and Design Mark

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INTRODUCTION

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is required by statute to perform certain duties in a manner consistent with the development of a nationwide health information technology (health IT) infrastructure that, among other things, allows for the electronic use and exchange of information. ONC is required under section 3001(c)(5) of the Public Health Service Act (PHSA), in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to keep or recognize a program or programs for the voluntary certification of health IT as being in compliance with applicable certification criteria adopted by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) under section 3004 of the PHSA.

The [ONC Health IT Certification Program](#) (Certification Program) is a voluntary certification program established by ONC to provide for the certification of health IT to the standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria adopted by the Secretary. The Certification Program supports the availability of certified health IT for its encouraged and required use under other federal, state, and private programs.

The “ONC Certified Health IT” certification and design mark (Mark), which is displayed below, represents that certain health IT functionality was certified under the Certification Program. The rectangle logo is the primary logo, and the square logo is provided for when space is limited.¹



Under the Certification Program, certification activities are performed by ONC-Authorized Certification Bodies (ONC-ACBs)² in accordance with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. Part 170, Subpart E.

CHARACTERISTICS REPRESENTED BY THE MARK

An authorized user’s use of the Mark represents that the health IT has been:

1. Tested by an ONC-Authorized Testing Laboratory (ONC-ATL) in accordance with test tools and test procedures approved by the National Coordinator³ and/or evaluated by an ONC-ACB for compliance with a conformance method approved by the National Coordinator; and

¹ ONC CERTIFIED HIT and Design and the ONC Certified HIT composite logo are certification marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The rainbow and star design logo is a service mark of DHHS.

² ONC-ACBs are certification bodies authorized by ONC to conduct certification under the Certification Program.

³ Test tools and test procedures approved by the National Coordinator can be accessed through the main ONC Health IT Certification Program webpage at <https://www.healthit.gov/topic/certification-ehrs/certification-health-it>. Test tools and test procedures are approved for each adopted edition of certification criteria.



2. Certified in accordance with:

- a. Adopted standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria; and
- b. Requirements of the Certification Program.⁴

AUTHORIZED USE OF THE MARK

This document contains a series of guidelines that help ensure proper use of the Mark. The terms of use within this document are intended for the exclusive use of authorized users who wish to use or display the Mark.

ONC administers use of the Mark. ONC-ACBs, on behalf of ONC, may grant permission to health IT developers to use the Mark consistent with the criteria and terms herein and in conjunction with health IT that is certified under the Certification Program.

The Mark may only be used:

In conjunction with health IT that has been certified under the Certification Program; and

According to the usage guidelines included in this terms of use document.

An authorized user may reproduce and display the Mark on its website as well as in marketing materials, communications statements, and other assertions related to certified health IT products, subject to the following conditions and limitations:

Placement

The Mark should be displayed adjacent and in close proximity to the certified Health IT Module(s), or products of which the Health IT Module is a part, to which it refers. At a minimum, the Mark must not be displayed in a manner that causes confusion regarding the Health IT Module(s) or product being referenced or the nature of the certification for that Health IT Module(s) or product. For example, the Mark must not be displayed above a list containing products for which some do not have certified Health IT Module(s).

Accompanying Marks, Logos, and Symbols

The Mark may be accompanied by or displayed alongside one or more of the following:

- The relevant ONC-ACB's certification mark, logo, or other identifying symbol; or
- The relevant health IT developer's company mark, logo, or other identifying symbol.

However, the Mark's dimensions must be no less than 75% of the width and no less than 75% of the height of any such accompanying mark, logo, or symbol. The following examples illustrate

⁴ Adopted standards and implementation specifications can be found at 45 C.F.R. Part 170, Subpart B. Adopted certification criteria can be found at 45 C.F.R. Part 170, Subpart C. Requirements of the Program can be found at 45 C.F.R. Part 170, Subpart E.



these requirements⁵: All accompanying marks, logos, and symbols are to be used with the rectangle logo.



The Mark must not be combined with the name of any licensee or third-party product, program, or service to create a composite Mark. The Mark must not be adulterated by combining it into a composite with marks owned by others, or otherwise modifying it from the form ordinarily used in commerce and/or as registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Attribution Statement

The use of the Mark must include an attribution statement crediting ownership of the Mark to the legal owner, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (the ONC CERTIFIED HIT[®] is a registered trademark of HHS). Typically, the attribution statement is displayed at the end of the material, in the footer of the document, or on the back of the package.

Other Requirements and Guidelines

Graphical Design Elements and Text

The Mark's graphical design elements and text may not be altered in any way not explicitly stated in this document.

Clear Space

The clear space on the left, bottom, and right of the Mark must be at least equal to the x-height of the tallest letter.



⁵ Please note that other sequences of the Mark are acceptable but are not illustrated in this document.



Minimum Size

The size of the Mark will affect legibility and overall impression; thus, the Mark must always be sized as specified in these guidelines. For print, the minimum size of the Mark must not be smaller than two inches wide. For posting on the internet, the minimum size of the Mark must not be smaller than 200 pixels wide.



Incorrect Usage

In order to maintain the integrity of the Mark, it is essential that the Mark be used correctly, which means a user must:

- Always use the Mark as provided and the logo must always appear.
- Not alter the position of the Mark elements.
- Not alter the aspect ratio of the Mark.
- Not stretch or distort the Mark.
- Not alter the color of any of the Mark elements.
- Not use any of the Mark elements to create a new mark or graphic.
- Not use the Mark on background colors, images, or other artwork that interfere with the legibility of the Mark.
- Not rotate the logo or any of its elements.

Preferred Color Palette

The user should utilize the following color palette for identity program components on all graphic communications materials. The user should match the indicated colors as closely as possible using the following guidelines:

- For four-color process printing (also known as full-color printing), refer to the CMYK values indicated.
- For software like Microsoft Word® or Microsoft PowerPoint®, refer to RGB (print/onscreen).
- For web applications, refer to the RGB web values or hexadecimal web values.
- For printing on coated and uncoated paper, use the PANTONE® and CMYK values provided.



Primary

Hex: #FFF9EB WCAG 2: 10.63:1 - AAA	Hex: #E5EDF8 WCAG 2: 9.98:1 - AAA	Hex: #EEEEEE WCAG 2: 16.27:1 - AAA	Hex: #FFF9EB WCAG 2: 11.22:1 - AAA
Hex: #FFF5D6 WCAG 2: 10.25:1 - AAA	Hex: #B1CFE7 WCAG 2: 7.26:1 - AAA	Hex: #CCCCCC WCAG 2: 11.75:1 - AAA	Hex: #FFF5D6 WCAG 2: 10.81:1 - AAA
ONC Gold Hex: #FFC72C RGB: 255, 199, 44 CMYK: 0, 22, 91, 0 Pantone: 123C WCAG 2: 7.54:1 - AAA	ONC Blue Hex: #046db1 RGB: 4, 109, 177 CMYK: 90, 55, 4, 0 Pantone: 307C WCAG 2: 5.48:1 - AA	ONC Gray Hex: #555555 RGB: 85, 85, 85 CMYK: 66, 56, 56, 30 Pantone: 7540 C WCAG 2: 7.45:1 - AAA	ONC Red Hex: #DA291C RGB: 255, 199, 44 CMYK: 0, 22, 91, 0 Pantone: 123C WCAG 2: 7.54:1 - AAA
Hex: #836721 WCAG 2: 5.34:1 - AA	Hex: #FFF5D6 WCAG 2: 10.81:1 - AAA	Hex: #333333 WCAG 2: 12.63:1 - AAA	Hex: #836721 WCAG 2: 5.34:1 - AA
Hex: #493917 WCAG 2: 11.16:1 - AAA	Hex: #0D3868 WCAG 2: 11.78:1 - AAA	Hex: #111111 WCAG 2: 18.88:1 - AAA	Hex: #493917 WCAG 2: 11.16:1 - AAA

Secondary

Distinguishing the Mark in a Non-Styled Form

When the Mark is used in a non-stylized form, such as in the body text of an advertisement, it should be set apart and distinguished from the other words in the text. In order to do this, the Mark may be rendered in boldface type, italics, CAPITAL LETTERS, underscored, set in “quotation marks” or followed by an asterisk(*). Often times, the best identification may be a footnote identifying the registered status of the Mark.

MISUSE OF THE MARK

ONC-ACBs, and health IT developers who use the Mark, are required to inform ONC immediately of any suspected misuse of the Mark. Health IT developers are required to cease use of the Mark immediately should its health IT Module’s certification become suspended or withdrawn by an ONC-ACB or terminated by ONC.

PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING DISPUTES

If an ONC-ACB believes that a health IT developer is misusing the Mark, it should notify the health IT developer of its concerns. If the health IT developer is no longer under contract with the ONC-ACB (due to a withdrawal), the ONC-ACB should try to work directly with the health IT developer to cease use. If the developer is non-responsive or unwilling to cease use of the Mark, the ONC-ACB should notify ONC immediately.

If the health IT developer is still under contract with the ONC-ACB, the two parties should alert ONC to the suspected misuse of the Mark but should attempt to resolve the dispute without ONC input. However, if the attempt at resolution is unsuccessful, the ONC-ACB should issue a non-compliance notification to the health IT developer. The non-compliance notification should



specify the ONC-ACB's reasons for the notification and request that the health IT developer respond to and correct the alleged violation or be subject to having its permission to use the Mark rescinded by the ONC-ACB.

If the health IT developer remains non-compliant and the ONC-ACB rescinds the health IT developer's permission to use the Mark, the health IT developer may appeal the decision to ONC. The health IT developer has 15 calendar days from receipt of the ONC-ACB's written determination to file an appeal with ONC. The appeal should include, in writing, the ONC-ACB's decision to rescind use of the Mark, the health IT developer's reasons for appealing the ONC-ACB decision, and any relevant supporting documentation. A health IT developer may file its appeal by sending an email with the required information to ONCcertificationconformance@hhs.gov with the subject line "Appeal of ONC-ACB's Certification Mark Decision."

ONC will, as necessary, contact the health IT developer, ONC-ACB, and any other relevant party to obtain information pertinent to the appeal. ONC will make a final decision based on the information initially submitted by the health IT developer and any information obtained by ONC since the filing of the appeal. A timely written decision will be issued based on the circumstances. The decision will not be subject to further review.

A decision by ONC to uphold an ONC-ACB's decision to rescind permission to use the Mark would not preclude a health IT developer from seeking permission to use the Mark in the future as long as the health IT developer complies with the Mark's terms of use. However, egregious or continued misuse of the Mark may result in a sustained prohibition of its use and other appropriate legal recourse.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For assistance, please contact:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Director, ONC Health IT
Certification Program
330 C Street SW Mail Stop: 7033A
Washington, DC 20201

Telephone: 202-690-7151

Fax: 202-690-6079

Email: ONC.Certification@hhs.gov (subject line: Certification Mark)