International Association of Commercial Collectors

Member Rules of Conduct

Adopted Oct. 9, 2014 Revised Feb. 8, 2016 Revised Jan. 18, 2023



International Association of Commercial Collectors (IACC) Member Rules of Conduct

The Member Conduct Review Rules shall be construed and applied consistent with the following Canons:

Canon 1: When necessary, ambiguity in any application of these Rules shall be resolved by balancing

the interests of fair and equitable treatment of the Participants, the interests of the general public and the credit and collection industry as a whole, the mission of the

Association and efficient administration.

<u>Canon 2:</u>

No action taken under these Rules shall be influenced by malice toward any of the

Participants, bad faith, illegal prejudice, or anticompetitive purpose.

Canon 3: Rules shall be given effect and the Committee and Administrator shall exercise discretion

only in a manner consistent with the Association's Bylaws, Committee Charters, and Code

of Ethics.

<u>Canon 4:</u> The impartiality and integrity of the process shall not be compromised in any application

of these Rules.

Canon 5: The Association condemns coercive or retaliatory action on the part of Members against

any individual or organization seeking to assert its rights under these Rules.

<u>Canon 6:</u> The Rules are intended to ensure procedural fairness to Members with respect to

improper conduct allegations. These Rules shall not create substantive rights on the

part of non- member Participants nor expand the rights of any Member.

Rule 1.0 Rules of General Application

Rule 1.1 Terminology

As referenced within these Rules, the following terms shall have the meanings provided below:

"Administrator" The Executive Director of IACC.

"Aggrieved" A specific individual or organization claiming harm resulting from a Member's alleged

improper conduct.

"Association" International Association of Commercial Collectors.

"Board" The Association's Board of Directors.

"Chair" The Chairperson of the Grievance Committee.

"Code of Ethics" The Association's official ethics code governing member conduct.

"Committee"	The Association's Grievance Committee
COMMITTEE	The Association's Ghevance Committee.

"Complaint" An oral or written communication alleging improper conduct related to participation in the credit

and collection industry, which much be followed by a Report.

"Covenant" Those requirements of Association Membership set forth within the Association's

Bylaws, Code of Ethics. When referenced within these Rules, the applicable Covenant shall be the Covenant in force and effect at the time the alleged

improper conduct occurred.

"Guidelines" The guidelines promulgated by the Administrator which are set forth for Committee

Members, Board Members, Association employees, Members and other Participants, the purpose of which are to ensure a consistent and efficient manner and method of communicating information relevant to reviewing improper conduct allegations.

"Improper Conduct" Behavior evidencing a breach of any Member Covenant articulated within the

Association's Bylaws, Code of Ethics.

"Legal Counsel" The Attorney member of the Board of Directors of the Association.

"Member" An individual or entity who has applied and has been accepted for membership in

the Association, and who remains an active member; a Member may also mean an

individual employee, officer or director of a Member company.

"Participant" Concerning any improper conduct matter, a Member, Reporter, Witness, or Aggrieved.

"Report" A written communication alleging improper conduct related to participation in the

credit and collections industry.

"Reporter" An individual, organization, or collective, including the Committee, submitting a Report to

the Association.

"Rules and Regulations"

The Association's official "Rules and Regulations" governing account forwarding and

receiving relationships, as may be periodically amended.

Rule 1.2 Member Notice - Manner of Delivery

For all notices required to be sent to members, e-mail notification to the main company contact e-mail address on file with IACC shall be deemed proper and sufficient. If the Administrator's e-mail notification is returned or rejected, or if the Administrator is unable to determine a proper contact e-mail address, notice shall be proper if mailed to the last known main company contact postal address on file with the Association.

Rule 1.3 Administrator's Authority to Delegate

The Administrator may delegate his or her responsibilities under these Rules to an appropriate Association staff person or member of the Grievance Committee.

Rule 1.4 Administrator's Authority to Establish Process Guidelines

The Administrator shall have the authority to promulgate conduct review process Guidelines which specify the manner, method, form and timing of communication of information between and among Members, Participants, the Chair, Committee, Administrator, and the Board in accordance with these Rules. Such Guidelines shall be made available in writing or electronically to the Participants. Participants engaged in any conduct review process under these Rules shall be expected to comply with the Rules and the Guidelines promulgated in accordance therewith. This Rule does not prohibit

the publication of the Guidelines to the general public.

Rule 1.5 Termination of Committee Handling

If during the consideration of any Report, the Chairperson is notified that the membership status of the Member who is the subject of such Report has become inactive, the Chairperson in his or her discretion may terminate Committee consideration of the matter. The Grievance Committee may in appropriate circumstances issue a written recommendation to the Association that the matter be further considered prior to the Association's approval of any membership re-application during the 12-month period following the effective date of membership inactivity. Notice of incomplete Committee handling of any matter under these Rules due to a change in membership status shall be provided promptly to the Member and any Aggrieved Reporter.

Rule 1.6 Committee Discretion-Proofs

The Committee shall be empowered to judge the credibility of Participants and witnesses to proceedings under these Rules and to the authenticity, weight, and sufficiency of documents, exhibits, testimony or other evidence submitted for consideration.

Rule 1.7 Confidentiality

Except in response to (1) proper valid legal process demanding production; or (2) an official request from the Board establishing a need for the information or in the case of an appeal requiring Board consideration pursuant to Rule 4.0 & 5.0, Committee member notes, investigation reports, memoranda, and correspondence between and among Committee members and the Administrator, shall remain confidential. A member of the Committee or employee of the Association must not disclose to any individual, information obtained by that member or employee concerning a matter governed by these Rules except as required to carry out an investigation or take official action in a matter as authorized by these Rules.

Rule 1.8 Indemnification

Committee members, Members of the Board, and Association employees shall be indemnified and held harmless by all Participants for any act or omission performed in the course of or arising out of performance of their official duties pursuant to these Rules or any Guidelines promulgated in accordance therewith.

Rule 1.9 Legal Counsel

Legal Counsel may provide legal advice to the Grievance Committee and the Board, but shall have no right to vote on any matter committed to the authority of the Committee.

Rule 1.10 Attorney-Client Privilege

Communications between the Committee and Legal Counsel or the Board and Legal Counsel related to any matter governed by these Rules shall be accorded attorney-client privilege.

Rule 1.11 Disclosure

Disclosures by the Association staff, the Administrator or Committee members or Board regarding the handling of a matter governed by these Rules is prohibited, except to the limited extent disclosure is necessary for fair and proper administration or as otherwise specifically provided in these Rules.

Rule 1.12 Information Requests

Upon request, the Administrator may, at his or her discretion and with the advice of Legal Counsel, disclose general non-privileged information about Committee matter handling but only in a manner which does not identify or allow a recipient to identify any particular individual or organization involved. Examples of such information may include summary or aggregate data or redacted documents. This provision does not create any right in the requestor to such information nor obligate the Administrator to respond to requests which may pose an unreasonable burden to the Association.

Rule 1.13 Committee Meetings - Confidential

All Committee Meetings involving the application of these Rules shall be conducted confidentially, and all minutes recording the Committee's activity shall also remain confidential.

Rule 1.14 Rules Effective Date

These Rules shall be effective for all Reports and Complaints received after the date of first publication upon adoption by the Board.

Rule 1.15 Opportunity to be Represented by Counsel

All Members who have been notified by the Committee of a broken Covenant may choose, but are not required, to be represented by legal counsel when responding to the Committee.

Rule 2.0 Reports of Improper Conduct

Rule 2.1 Authority

The Administrator and the Committee shall have authority to process Reports concerning alleged improper conduct by Members.

Rule 2.2 Non-Member Reports

Neither the Administrator nor the Committee shall have authority to accept Reports concerning acts or omissions of a non-Member, which shall be deemed non-actionable.

Rule 2.3 Authority

The Chairperson in his or her discretion shall have the independent authority to initiate a Report under this Rule upon receipt of reasonably reliable information establishing a Covenant has been broken. Unverified information from anonymous sources, or from sources who refuse to allow disclosure of their identity, absent additional information or other compelling circumstances, shall not be considered reasonably reliable information under this Rule.

Rule 2.4 Member Notice

Unless initially deemed non-actionable pursuant to Rule 2.6, the Administrator shall promptly notify any Member who is identified as the subject of a Report with a notice that the Report will be processed in accordance with these Rules and Guidelines.

Rule 2.5 Notice to Reporter

The Administrator shall notify the Reporter that the Report will be processed in accordance with these Rules and Guidelines. Any individual submitting a Report which in whole or in part is deemed non-actionable shall be provided with the reason therefore.

Rule 2.6 Non-Actionable Reports

The Chair or the Administrator may deem Reports, or portions thereof, non-actionable based on the following reasons:

- a. Reports concerning Non-Members;
 - Inability to ascertain the portion of the Covenant allegedly broken; or the allegations contained within the Report, even if true, would not constitute a broken Covenant;
- b. The Report contains insufficient information to identify the Member;
- c. The Report was received from an individual or organization who requests to restrict disclosure of their identity or the Report appears to be based solely on second-hand information, and the reporting party is unable to provide or identify sources of reliable supporting information;
 - The Report involves matters deemed personal in nature (i.e., not arising out of, or directly related to, credit and collection industry activity);

- d. The Report involves a subject for which specialized or technical expertise is required in order to determine whether conduct was wrongful;
- e. A determination as to whether the conduct constitutes a broken Covenant cannot be made without a legal interpretation of state law;
- f. The Report involves a general business matter not specific to the credit and collections industry (ex: licensing agreements, intellectual property infringement, real estate matters);
- g. The Report seeks Association involvement with respect to an individual's terms and conditions of employment;
- h. The Report contains insufficient information to support investigation;
- i. The lapse in time intervening between the conduct and the Report thereof substantially hinders investigation efforts and prejudices the information thereby obtained;
- j. The Report merely re-states allegations previously deemed non-actionable or were otherwise disposed of;
- k. The Report involves allegations or factual matters which are currently the subject of a judicial, formal dispute resolution, regulatory, enforcement or other similar proceeding. In these cases the Committee may consider information arising from such a proceeding only after a final disposition in the underlying proceeding.

Rule 2.7 Investigations

The Chair shall determine whether a Report will be accepted for investigation, which shall be commenced promptly by the Committee or the Administrator after acceptance. The Member who is the subject of the Report shall be notified of the Covenant allegedly broken, that the Member's conduct is the subject of investigation, and the Member shall be provided an opportunity to respond within 20 days thereto. The Committee shall make reasonable efforts to complete its investigation within 90 days of acceptance.

Rule 2.8 Committee Expectations

After a Report has been accepted for investigation, and when practical, the Administrator should advise the Member who is the subject of the Report of the following Committee expectations:

- 1. The Member is expected to take immediate steps to identify whether a continuing course of conduct may constitute an ongoing broken Covenant and, when necessary, proactively seek to bring the conduct in conformity with the Covenant;
- 2. If an Aggrieved Reporter has alleged a personal harm arising out of the reported conduct, the Member is expected to make a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute directly with the Aggrieved Reporter;
- The Member is expected to notify the Administrator or the Committee, as the case may be, of its efforts in furtherance of resolving the Aggrieved Reporter's alleged personal harm and cessation of activity not in conformity with the Covenant.

The Administrator shall further notify an identified Aggrieved Reporter of the Committee's expectation that he or she cooperate with any Member communications in furtherance of the Member's responsibilities under this Rule.

Rule 2.9 Determinations

Subsequent to an investigation pursuant to Rule 2.7, determinations as to whether a specific Covenant has been broken shall be decided at Committee meetings and communicated in writing to the Member as soon as practicable upon completion of an investigation. The Committee shall dispose of the Report by majority vote in accordance with Rule 2.9.1 or 2.9.2 as appropriate.

- **Rule 2.9.1** If the Reporter is not an Aggrieved, the Committee may dismiss the Report without sanction or may impose sanctions in accordance with Rule 3.0.
- Rule 2.9.2 If an Aggrieved Reporter has alleged a personal harm arising out of the conduct forming the basis

for a broken Covenant determination, the Committee shall:

- (i) notify the Aggrieved Reporter of the specific Covenant broken; and
- (ii) consider sanctions against the Member in accordance with Rule 3.0; and
- (iii) issue to the Member an Order to Redress the Aggrieved Reporter's personal harm related to the subject conduct. It is not within the Committee's authority to control the Participants' private resolution or the specific nature and form of the redress. An Order to Redress shall specify the amount of time for the Member's compliance; if the Participant(s) thereafter notify the Administrator that they have not negotiated a resolution, the Committee shall review the Member's attempts to comply with the Order and determine whether the Member's conduct in relation to the Order warrants sanction, or further sanction as the case may be, pursuant to Rule 3.0. When making sanction determinations in accordance with Rule 3.0, if applicable, the Committee may consider (a) the satisfaction or dissatisfaction of the Aggrieved; (b) notification from the Aggrieved that the dispute has been resolved or that the Aggrieved no longer desires Association involvement; (c) the cooperation and communication or lack thereof on the part of the Member and the Aggrieved as it concerns the Order. At the Committee's discretion, the Aggrieved may be notified of the fact that the matter was further considered by the Committee pursuant to Rule 3.0; thereafter with respect to the Aggrieved's personal harm, the Committee has no further jurisdiction.

Rule 2.10 Appeals

Broken Covenant determinations under this Rule may be appealed to the Board pursuant to Rule 4.0.

Rule 3.0 Sanctions

Rule 3.1 Authority

The Committee shall have the authority to impose sanctions for Member conduct pursuant to Rule 2.9.

Rule 3.2 Committee independence

The Committee shall independently exercise its discretion with respect to member sanction determinations; namely, Committee members shall be free from undue influence of unsolicited requests, recommendations, or suggestions for any sanction against a Member. This Rule shall not interfere with legal counsel's ability under Rule 1.9 to provide advice to the Committee.

Rule 3.3 Sanction Determinations

The Committee may make sanction determinations based upon the information available to the Committee pursuant to a majority vote. In making sanction determinations, the Committee shall consider, when such information is available, relevant and applicable: (a) the existence of any aggravating or mitigating circumstances; (b) prior sanction proceedings, when known; (c) cooperation with the process; (d) the committee's handling of prior member sanction matters involving substantially similar findings; (e) whether the Member has violated a duty owed to a client, to a consumer, to the Association, or to the profession; (f) whether the Member acted intentionally, knowingly, or negligently; (g) the amount of the actual or potential injury caused by the Member's conduct; (h) the pervasiveness, duration, or isolated nature of the conduct; (i) whether the Member has taken remedial action to cure the violation or harm including efforts to prevent future occurrences; and (j) advice of legal counsel.

Rule 3.4 Manner of Sanction

Sanctions may include the following, the severity of which shall be reasonably commensurate or related to the nature and severity of the harm, injury, prejudice, or violation: (a) warning/caution/admonition; (b) issuance of a plan for corrective action; (c) mandatory educational or professional training program fulfillment; (d) temporary or permanent removal from any Association representative capacity or role including committee member, officer, director, instructor,

speaker; (e) temporary suspension of all or specified membership rights, privileges, or benefits, including the right to vote; (f) expulsion; (g) other reasonable and equitable sanction not specified herein as may be deemed justified under the circumstances. For temporary sanctions imposed, the Committee shall determine the effective suspension period, which may be a definite period, or may be contingent on specified Member action(s).

Rule 3.5 Review of Committee Determination Required

For all sanction determinations made based on Committee action pursuant to Rule 2.3, the Committee shall be required to submit any recommendations to the Board. A copy of the request for such review shall be sent by the Administrator to the Member and shall contain the following information:

- 1. A copy of all notices provided to the Member as required under Rule 2.0;
- 2. A summary of the Committee's investigation;
- 3. A copy of the documents considered by the Committee in rendering its determination and a summary of any other information considered which is not in documented form;
- 4. A statement of Committee findings;
- 5. The Committee's specific recommendation for sanction under Rule 3.4 and a statement articulating the basis therefore;
- 6. Such other information supporting the propriety of the Committee's recommendation.

No such sanction shall be effective or imposed prior to the Committee's receipt of the Board's ruling. The Administrator shall comply with all reasonable requests for information from the Board related to the recommendation. The Administrator may redact private or sensitive information deemed not critical to the review. Subsequent Committee action must comport with the Board's ruling. A Committee recommendation may be withdrawn at any time by providing notice to the Board and the Member.

Rule 3.6 Effective Date

All sanctions imposed pursuant to Rule 3.4 shall be effective immediately or as may be otherwise specified by the Committee.

Rule 3.7 Notice of Sanction

- Rule 3.7.1 For all determinations made to impose sanctions, the Administrator shall provide reasonably prompt notice of the sanction to the affected Member, the effective date, and the basis for the Committee's determination including a statement conveying the findings of the Committee's investigation as well as notice of the right to appeal the decision to the Board. The Administrator shall have the authority to communicate sanction information to Association staff in order to effectuate the outcome. The affected Member shall be entitled, upon written request made within the timeframe specified by the Administrator to receive a copy of the document evidence considered in the Committee's determination. For temporary suspension or removal sanctions pursuant to Rule 3.4, the Committee shall determine the suspension expiration date, which may be a date specific, or may be contingent on specified Member action(s).
- Rule 3.7.2 For sanctions imposed under Rule 3.4 (d), (e) or (f), notice thereof identifying the Member and the sanction imposed as well as a reference to the specific broken Covenant, along with the sanction's effective date, may be published. For all other sanctions imposed under Rule 3.4, the sanction imposed, along with a summary of the conduct for which the sanction was imposed and a relevant Covenant reference may be published for the education of the profession, but the Member shall not be identified. Publication may be made in the Association's official publication and on the Association's website for a period of time specified by the Committee; thirty calendar days shall be presumptively

reasonable. The Association shall not publish this notice prior to the expiration of the affected member's right to appeal the sanction determination.

Rule 3.8 Ineligibility for Membership

In the case of expulsion, the Committee shall inform the Membership Review Committee that a Member be deemed ineligible for membership in the Association for a period of 36 months after the effective date of the sanction or for such other shorter period of time deemed appropriate by the Committee. A copy of the recommendation shall be provided to the Member.

Rule 3.9 Right to Appeal

Final sanction determinations under this Rule may be appealed by the sanctioned Member to the Board pursuant to Rule 4.0.

Rule 3.10 Temporary Interim Suspension

In addition to its authority under Rule 3.1, upon a Committee finding by majority vote that a Member's conduct which is the subject of a Report (a) poses a clear threat of serious and imminent financial, legal or reputational harm to the Association, another member, or to the public, and (b) the Member's continued access to Association membership benefits and privileges does or is reasonably likely to perpetuate such threat, the Committee may temporarily suspend the Member's membership pending a final outcome of the proceedings. Temporary interim suspensions:

- 1. are effective no sooner than 15 days' from the date of written notice to the Member setting forth the reasons for the temporary suspension;
- 2. shall not be effective unless the Member has had opportunity to be heard orally or in writing not less than 5 days' in advance of the effective date of the temporary interim suspension;
- 3. shall be terminated if the Committee becomes aware that the underlying basis no longer exists;
- 4. remain in effect until lifted by the Committee, or until the Committee imposes a final disciplinary sanction;
- 5. shall not in any event remain effective for longer than 120 days;
- 6. are non-appealable.

The imposition of temporary interim suspensions shall serve the purpose of maintaining public confidence in the credit and collection industry.

Rule 3.11 Agency Certification Status

As to any proceeding under these rules, if the Member maintains or has made application for agency certification status through the Association, the Agency Certification Committee shall be entitled to receive notice of this Committee's investigation, evidence, findings, and outcome as well as any determinations rendered by the Board's review pursuant to Rule 5.0.

Rule 4.0 Appeals

Rule 4.1 Method of Appeal

Members affected by Committee determinations and any applicable sanctions rendered pursuant to Rule 2.10 or 3.1 shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Committee to the Board. In the absence of any written procedure specified by the Administrator pursuant to Rule 1.4, the Member may make the appeal request to the Board by mailing or emailing a detailed explanatory statement supporting the request for appeal to:

International Association of Commercial Collectors

ATTN: Grievance Administrator 3200 Courthouse Lane, Eagan, Minnesota 55121

OR

iacc@commercialcollector.com

Appeal requests must be received within 30 days of the date the determination notice was sent to the Member. The board shall make every reasonable effort to hear the appeal within 60 days of receipt of the appeal.

Rule 4.2 Withdrawal of Appeal

A Member's request for appeal may be withdrawn at any time.

Rule 4.3 Notice of Appeal to the Board

Upon receipt of an appeal the Administrator shall promptly notify the Board of the request.

Rule 4.4 Board Rulings

If a member appeals a Committee determination, the Administrator shall provide the information available from the Committee in reaching its final determination to the Board and comply with Board requests.

Rule 4.5 Finality of Board Rulings

Decisions of the Board shall be final and non-appealable. Subsequent Committee action must comport with the Board's determination.

Rule 5.0 Board Review

Rule 5.1 Board Review

The Board may receive Committee requests to review pursuant to Rule 3.5 and may accept for consideration, proper written and timely requests made by any Member seeking appellate review of a final disciplinary determination rendered against it by the Committee.

Rule 5.2 Guidelines for Review

The Board must provide a genuine opportunity for fair and meaningful review of Requests. In the absence of any specific written procedures approved by the Board, a genuine opportunity for fair and meaningful review will be presumed when the following conditions are met:

- a. Within 30 days of receipt of the Request, the Board shall request the following be provided within a time specified no less than 30 days: (1) In the case of a member's appeal of a Grievance Committee's final determination, a statement from the appellant explaining the basis for the Request and a copy of any documents, and any additional information which support the appellant's position; or (2) In the case of a Request by the Committee pursuant to Rule 3.5, a copy of the information specified in Rule 3.5.
- b. Upon receipt of the information provided in response to its request, the Board shall convene within a reasonable period of time to review the information and render a ruling.
- c. At the discretion of the Board, a Member may be provided an opportunity to participate in an in-person, video conference or telephonic hearing to state his or her position.
- d. No less than 7 business days prior to the meeting, notice shall be provided to the Requestor of the date the Board is scheduled to meet. In the case of an appeal of a final disciplinary determination rendered by the Committee pursuant to these Rules, a copy of such notice shall be made available to the Administrator.
- e. The Board shall meet, review and discuss the Request. A ruling shall be made by majority vote and based solely upon the information presented to the Board. The Board shall further consider the following in its deliberation: (i) Whether the determination conflicts with the Association's Bylaws or these Rules, as may be applicable; (ii) Evidence that the Member acted with malice, bad faith,

- anti-competitive or otherwise improper purpose; (iii) Evidence that, to the extent standard practices and procedures apply, the Member made an unjustified and unreasonable departure therefrom; (iv) Whether the determination is reasonably supported by the information available at the time the determination was rendered; and (v) To the extent such information is available, whether the determination constitutes a departure from fair and consistent treatment of same or similar matters.
- f. In the case of a member's appeal of a Committee determination, written rulings shall specify whether the charge(s) and sanction(s) determinations are arbitrary and capricious (made without reasonable grounds or without adequate consideration of the circumstances). If determinations are ruled arbitrary and capricious, they shall be opposed; if they are not deemed arbitrary and capricious, they shall be confirmed.
- g. In the case of a member's appeal of a Committee determination, if the Board opposes any sanction determination, its ruling shall approve appropriate available sanctions, if any, consistent with these Rules.
- h. The Meeting shall result in a written ruling advising the appellant that the determination subject to review is confirmed or opposed and shall likewise advise the Administrator, as applicable.
- i. Notice of the ruling shall be sent within a reasonable period of time.
- j. Rulings issued by the Board of Directors under this rule shall be final and not subject to further appeal.

Rule 5.3 Confidentiality

All Board Meetings involving the application of this Rule shall be conducted confidentially, and all minutes recording the Board's activity shall also remain confidential. All matters which come before the Board shall remain confidential with disclosure made only to those who have a substantiated and genuine need to know in order to aid the resolution of a specific matter submitted to the authority of the Board. Disclosures by the Association staff, or members of the Board regarding the handling of a matter governed by this Rule is prohibited, except to the limited extent disclosure is necessary for fair and proper administration or as expressly provided in these Rules.

Rule 5.4 Rules Administration

- a. Unless specifically otherwise stated, "reasonable" time periods referenced herein are presumably 30 days; a time period longer than 30 days may be reasonable if justified by the circumstances of the particular matter, which may include, for example, matters of a complex, urgent or acute nature.
- b. The Executive Director may direct his or her staff designee to carry out the clerical functions set forth in these Rules.
- c. Upon request, the Executive Director may, at his or her discretion and with the advice of Legal Counsel, disclose general non-privileged information about Board matter handling but only in a manner which does not expressly identify or allow a recipient to identify any participant involved. Examples of such information may include summary or aggregate data or redacted documents which de-identify participants. This provision does not create any right in the requestor to such information nor obligate the Association to respond to requests which may pose an unreasonable burden.
- d. This Rule shall be effective for all Requests received after the date of first publication upon adoption by the Board