



Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What is the new name being proposed for our association?

A: Healthcare Sterile Processing Association, with a tagline of “Professionals Instrumental to Patient Safety”

Q: What is the process for changing the organization’s name?

A: In June, we will be asking our membership to vote to change the name of our association to Healthcare Sterile Processing Association within the bylaws and articles of incorporation. Members will receive more information in the coming weeks. Please watch your email for a customized voting ballot.

Q: When will voting on the proposed change take place?

A: Voting will take place June 22 – July 12, 2021.

Q: How many votes will be needed in order to adopt the new name?

A: For the name to be adopted, the name change must receive a two-thirds approval by the members who participate in the voting process.

Q: When will the name change take effect, if approved by the vote?

A: If the new name is approved by the membership, it will take effect January 1, 2022. This will give us time to update our materials and corporate documents.

Q: What led IAHCSMM’s Board of Directors to seek a new name for the Association?

A: A primary strategic goal of the association’s 2021-2023 strategic plan is to increase the visibility, recognition and value of the role of Sterile Processing professionals. As part of that goal, we looked closely at how our current name reflects the profession. We conducted surveys and held focus groups across our membership and amongst our certification holders—and what

respondents shared with us supported our Board of Directors' own belief: that our current name does not accurately reflect the profession and what it entails.

Q: Why the name “Healthcare Sterile Processing Association”?

A: We believe the new proposed name, Healthcare Sterile Processing Association, more clearly and accurately reflects the profession and will allow our association to better inform and educate others within the healthcare community and general public about how the profession and all who comprise it impact patient care and quality outcomes.

Q: Why did IAHCMM originally include the “Central Service” and “Materiel Management” terminology in its name, anyway?

A: When our association got its start in 1958, “Central Service” was the more well-known name for the profession/department. We also included “materiel management” in our name then because the function commonly fell under the department’s list of responsibilities (“materiel”—spelled with the ‘e’—historically referred to supplies and equipment used by an organization). These terms are not as representative of the profession today. Our internal and external research shows that “Sterile Processing” is the most widely used name for the discipline.

Q: Would the certification credentials change with the association name change?

A: Not to worry. Your certification credentials will remain the same.

Q: Will I get new certification documents?

A: Yes, if the name change is approved by membership, everyone will receive new certificates for all their credentials reflecting the organization’s new name. Nothing else regarding your certification status, the renewal process, or your credentials will be impacted. The names of the actual certifications (CRCST, CIS, CER, CHL, CCSVP) will remain the same.

Q: The word “International” is not included in the proposed new name. What does that mean?

A: While we did not include “International” in the new name, our association’s focus will remain the same: representing the profession internationally.

Q: What if I have questions about the name change or the voting process?

A: We want to hear from you! Please email any questions to processingchange@iahcsmm.org.