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Fact Sheet: ICE 2008 Performance Based National Detention Standards

When U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was formed, the agency followed a set of 38 national detention standards issued in September 2000. These standards were designed to standardize conditions of confinement, access to legal representation and operations within the agency's detention system. The 2000 standards established consistency in program operations, management expectations and accountability for non-compliance, and fostered a culture of professionalism. They were based on existing policies and procedures and focused solely on what had to be done.

In 2007, ICE, in consultation with agency stakeholders (e.g. non-governmental organizations), reviewed those standards and revised them into the [performance based national detention standards](#). The [performance based standards](#) focus on results or outcomes expected from the ICE detention system.

In December 2008, ICE published the 41 [performance based national detention standards](#). The implementation of these new and improved standards was a milestone in agency's commitment to ensure that detainees in ICE custody reside in safe, secure and humane environments and under appropriate conditions of confinement. The [new standards](#) are better tailored to the unique needs of ICE's detained population, as they improve access to quality medical care, counsel, visitation and religious practices. ICE ensures its facilities follow the performance based standards through an aggressive inspections program. The program ensures the welfare, safety, and living conditions of detainees.