

The Joint Commission is an organization made up of individuals from the private medical sector to develop and maintain standards of quality in medical facilities in the United States. Many medical facilities rely on The Joint Commission

accreditation procedures to indicate to the public that their institution meets quality standards via regular inspections. In addition, The Joint Commission certification can increase the amount of reimbursement received for patient care services.

Listed below are many of the most common standards and violations that are found at medical facilities. These can be eliminated or minimized by using Akro-Mils products to properly store, organize and label items.

Joint Commission Standard	Description of Problem	Product Solution	Product Images
<p><b>EC.02.06.01:</b> The organization establishes and maintains a safe, functional environment.</p>	<p>Cluttered aisles, items stored overhead, unorganized supply rooms, cluttered work areas, unlabeled products, no uniform standards from floor to floor, or area to area.</p>	<p>Akro-Mils offers many products and tools to assist organizations in establishing a safe, functional environment. Our extensive line of wire systems, along with louvered panels and racks provide an easy solution to organize supplies, and keep all items stored off of the floor and out of walk areas. Items such as AkroBins®, Shelf Bins and ShelfMax® Bins work well with shelving units. Super-Size AkroBins® provide a storage solution for large, bulky items and can help to eliminate the use of corrugated boxes. Our Angle•Vu™ Adjustable Label Holders allow adjustable labeling on wire shelving.</p>	
<p><b>MM.03.01.01:</b> The organization safely stores medications.</p>	<p>Medications stored in accessible areas or cabinets can be pilfered, damaged (heat, cold), etc. Unorganized storage of medications can lead to mistakes in medicine administration.</p>	<p>Akro-Mils has several full-sized cabinets that are lockable to help keep medications organized and stored securely. Multiple colors of AkroBins can be used within these cabinets to organize and label medications. Using clear bins will enhance the visibility of stored medications. Cabinets can be placed on the floor or on a dolly.</p>	
<p><b>MM.01.01.03:</b> The organization safely manages high-alert and hazardous medications.</p>	<p>These pose the highest risk to patients if administered in the improper dosage. If these medications are disorganized, it is more difficult to identify theft or pilferage.</p>	<p>High-alert medications can be stored in an AkroBin, Shelf Bin, ShelfMax or AkroDrawer, and can be color coded so all staff members are aware of the hazards. For example, all high-alert medications can be stored in red bins and labeled with a warning.</p>	
<p><b>IC.01.03.01:</b> The organization should determine the appropriateness of having the container type used in a particular area.</p>	<p>Corrugated shipping cartons serve as generators of and reservoirs for dust. Clean or sterile items should be removed from their external shipping containers before they enter the storage areas of the department.</p>	<p>Attached Lid Containers are perfect for transferring supplies from cardboard containers to the various areas of the hospital. AkroBins, Shelf Bins and ShelfMax Bins can be used to organize and display inventory once it has been removed from the cardboard shipping container.</p>	

Joint Commission Standard	Description of Problem	Product Solution	Product Images
<p><b>MM.01.02.01:</b> The organization addresses the safe use of look-alike/sound-alike medications.</p>	<p>Prescribing, dispensing and administration errors are commonly the result of look-alike/sound-alike drugs. Errors can occur when a drug name is not labeled clearly or when look-alike packaging is not addressed.</p>	<p>In addition to identifying and documenting a comprehensive list of look-alike/sound-alike drugs, there are many options available to store, organize and properly label these items to reduce the risk of errors. Akro-Mils offers many varieties of labels that work with our bins, totes and containers. Some tips for labeling: Correctly label the medication using the entire name (no abbreviations) and include both the brand and generic names. The dosage of these drugs should be clearly stated on the label and highlighted. Different fonts or different colors can be used to make the dosage more visible.</p> <p>Look-alike/sound-alike medications can be kept in storage bins, such as AkroBins® or InSight® Bins with labeled lids – indicating that extra caution should be used when administering/dispensing. In addition, you can separate look-alike/sound-alike drugs in the storage room using color coding, and do the same on the unit level, creating a standardized process. Warning labels can be used on the storage containers to alert staff.</p>	
<p><b>IC.01.03.01:</b> The organization identifies risks for acquiring and transmitting infections.</p>	<p>No process or procedure in place for preventing the spread of infections.</p>	<p>Many of Akro-Mils' plastic storage bins, such as our AkroBins or InSight Bins, are autoclavable up to 250 degrees – which allow these storage containers to be sterilized to prevent the spread of infection. In addition, our plastic storage containers are washable and resistant to most cleaning solutions.</p>	
<p><b>LS.02.01.20:</b> The hospital maintains the integrity of the means of egress.</p>	<p>Cluttered corridors, aisles, blocked doorways.</p>	<p>Akro-Mils offers many storage solutions to organize and quickly move supplies so corridors are clear of clutter. Mobile Wire Carts paired with bins and ProCarts™ provide mobile storage space to organize and deliver patient care items around the floor and keep exit routes free from clutter.</p>	
<p><b>IC.02.02.01:</b> The hospital reduces the risk of infections associated with medical equipment, devices and supplies.</p>	<p>Clean and dirty equipment, devices or supplies are not separated. No process in place for disinfection of medical equipment.</p>	<p>Items stored on the floor are more susceptible to the spread of bacteria, viruses and other pathogens. Akro-Mils storage containers and totes such as Attached Lid Containers, Straight Wall Containers, and Stak-N-Store Bins provide a means to separate clean items from dirty items. These containers and totes can be easily labeled or color coded so staff can quickly identify the correct container for the product.</p>	
<p><b>LS.02.01.35 EP 6:</b> The hospital provides and maintains systems for extinguishing fires. There are 18 inches or more of open space maintained below the sprinkler deflector to the top of storage.</p>	<p>Sprinkler systems blocked by items stored too close to the ceiling.</p> <p>Note: Perimeter wall and stack shelving may extend up to the ceiling when not located directly below a sprinkler head.</p>	<p>Akro-Mils offers several 4-shelf wire shelving “starter units” of different heights that can be purchased as one SKU. These units allow for storage of items without blocking the sprinkler units. Casters can be added to make the shelving mobile. Akro-Mils louvered panels can be mounted to the wall at a height that will not block sprinkler systems and allow for dense storage of supplies. Even with dollies added, Louvered Racks do not exceed the maximum height requirement for a standard height ceiling.</p>	