

**American Heart Association Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC)
International Program Administration Manual (PAM):
Key Differences between previous PAM (2022) and updated PAM (2026)**

Area / Topic	2022 International PAM	2026 International PAM	Key Difference / Practical Impact
Overall Structure	The 2022 version included 9 chapters, including a standalone chapter for International Training Sites (ITS) and a final chapter titled "Reference and Resources."	The 2026 version has 8 chapters, with Training Sites moved into Chapter 1 under "ITC Organization" rather than remaining a standalone chapter.	The 2026 International PAM is more consolidated and reorganized, making International Training Site (ITS) oversight part of the broader International Training Center (ITC) organisational structure.
International Training Sites	International Training Sites appeared as Chapter 4, a standalone chapter	International Training Sites (ITS) are no longer a standalone chapter and are redistributed earlier in the manual.	International Training Site (ITS) management is positioned more directly within ITC governance and oversight in the 2026 International PAM.
Regional Faculty Role	The 2022 International PAM referred to Regional Faculty.	The 2026 International PAM defines International Regional Faculty (IRF), including a two (2)-year appointment term, eligibility requirements, QA/compliance responsibilities, renewal criteria, time commitment expectations, and conflict-of-interest expectations.	The 2026 International PAM creates a clearer international oversight model and strengthens regional governance expectations.
Atlas "Find a Class"	The document notes that this operational governance content does not appear in the 2022	The 2026 International PAM adds a dedicated "Atlas 'Find a Class'" section with rules and best practices,	This is a major operational addition for ITCs and ITSs that post public classes in Atlas. In

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	table of contents or excerpted sections provided.	including physical address requirements, restrictions on advertising in location fields, class time alignment, overlapping class restrictions, prohibition against calling American Heart Association (Association) classes “100% online,” and a best practice of not posting classes more than six (6) months ahead.	addition, it now includes a suggested best practice of not posting classes more than six (6) months ahead.
Managing ITC Agreements	The 2022 International PAM included “Renewing an ITC Agreement” in Chapter 2.	The 2026 International PAM uses the broader section “Managing an ITC Agreement,” which includes renewal content plus new agreement management items such as acquisitions and more formal renewal artefacts.	The agreement process is broader and more lifecycle-focused in 2026, not limited to renewal.
Renewal Evidence Requirements	The 2022 International PAM content referenced renewal but did not include the expanded evidence list described for 2026 in the provided comparison.	The 2026 International PAM expands renewal application evidence, including instructor list, organizational chart with full names, business plan for development, and explicit insurance documentation criteria.	ITCs will need to prepare more complete documentation for renewal.
ITC Acquisitions / Ownership Changes	The 2022 International PAM excerpt focused on transfer and termination but did not include a dedicated acquisitions process.	The 2026 International PAM adds “ITC Acquisitions” guidance requiring a new ITC application, updated insurance, and a new agreement before courses	Ownership changes are now more tightly controlled and require formal reapplication and agreement execution.

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		continue after a change of control.	
Transfer of ITC Agreement	The 2022 International PAM stated that ITC status may not be assigned, sold, licensed, sublicensed, or transferred without prior written consent of AHA.	The 2026 International PAM states that ITC status may not be assigned, sold, licensed, sublicensed, or transferred, followed by a detailed acquisitions pathway requiring a new application and agreement.	The 2026 wording is tighter and connects transfer restrictions to a more explicit acquisitions process.
Insurance Requirements	The 2022 International PAM referenced liability insurance but did not include a structured waiver framework in the excerpt provided.	The 2026 International PAM introduces a “Waiver of Third-Party Liability Insurance (Limited Exception)” with conditions and required supporting documents, including law/regulation proof, alternative protection scope, limits, exclusions, and claims process.	The 2026 PAM International provides a formal, limited exception pathway but requires supporting documentation.
Paper Course Completion Cards	The 2022 International PAM included course card management but did not include the expanded paper-card subtopics shown in the 2026 comparison.	The 2026 International PAM adds detailed paper-card completion standards, including stamping/typing/computer-printing requirements, limited handwritten fields, ink colour guidance, replacement expectations, and a statement that card content cannot be altered.	Paper-card issuance (where applicable) becomes more prescriptive, reducing risk of alteration or inconsistent completion.
Lost, Duplicated, or Damaged	The 2022 International excerpt did not include the expanded subtopics	The 2026 International PAM adds subsections on duplication and	ITCs have clearer guidance for resolving

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Paper Cards (where applicable)	described for lost, duplicated, or damaged paper cards.	replacement of lost paper cards and damaged paper course completion cards, and notes that students can access eCards through a specific heart.org page	paper card replacement and damage issues.
American Heart Association (Association) Verbiage, Logos, and Marks	The 2022 International PAM had trademarks guidance.	The 2026 International PAM adds a dedicated “Using Association Verbiage, Logos, and Marks” section, stating that instructors are not Association employees, providing allowed wording examples for CVs/business cards, and prohibiting use of the heart-and-torch logo/marks on business cards and advertising materials.	The 2026 International PAM strengthens branding and trademark compliance, especially for promotional and digital materials.
ITS to ITC Eligibility	The provided comparison does not identify a specific equivalent 2022 section for the more explicit International Training Site (ITS)-to-International Training Center (ITC) criteria.	The 2026 International PAM adds “Application Criteria for an ITS to Become an ITC,” including platform registration, minimum two (2) years of operation, minimum training volume set by the Regional Director, and agreement to issue eCards as the primary completion document	The pathway from ITS to ITC is more clearly defined and tied to operational readiness.
Training Reports	The 2022 International PAM required ITCs to submit 2 training reports each year, mid-year and end-of-year, and failure	The 2026 International PAM states that ITCs on Atlas are not required to submit training reports, while countries not on Atlas must	Reporting obligations now depend on Atlas use, reducing duplicate reporting for ITCs operating on Atlas.

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	to do so was considered a breach.	submit mid-year and end-of-year reports.	
Lead Instructor Requirement	The 2022 International PAM stated that each BLS Provider Course must have a Lead Instructor physically present.	The 2026 International PAM states that each provider course must have a Lead Instructor physically present.	The requirement is broadened from BLS Provider Course language to provider courses generally.
Minimum Class Size	The minimum-opening language was not present in the 2022 “Provider Course Structure” excerpt shown.	The 2026 International PAM adds that a minimum of three (3) students is required to open a course, except for Heartsaver courses or when the course agenda allows fewer students.	ITCs need to check class-size compliance before opening courses, while noting stated exceptions.
Terminology	The 2022 International PAM used “Healthcare Provider	The 2026 International PAM uses “Health care professional,” with similar intent/examples but updated naming and references to eligibility and the IRF pathway.	Terminology is updated and better aligned with the 2026 governance pathway.
Instructor Records and Forms	The 2022 International PAM included instructor transfer and retention rules but did not include the teaching-activity notice emphasis in the excerpted portion.	The 2026 International PAM adds explicit mention of the “Instructor Course Completion Notice to Primary Training Center” when instructors teach at non-primary ITCs and provides more explicit lists/links for forms in Atlas Tools & Resources.	The 2026 International PAM creates clearer documentation expectations when instructors teach outside their primary ITC.
Practical Operational Priorities	The comparison identifies several day-to-day operational changes	Same as 2026 practical focus areas listed in the document .	These areas should be prioritised for communication, ITC



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	for international ITCs, including International Regional Faculty (IRF) oversight, Atlas "Find a Class" compliance, agreement lifecycle controls, insurance documentation and waiver pathway, paper-card issuance/duplication rules, and branding/trademark compliance.		onboarding, audit preparation, and policy implementation.