

The Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) has changed the way we do and think about mammography in the United States. The current Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Interim Rules have been in effect since 1994 and most facilities have learned how to comply with these rules. The Government Accounting Office has published several analyses documenting improvements in mammography throughout the US as a result of the Interim Rules. The FDA published their Final Rules for mammography on October 28, 1997 and facilities will have to be ready when the majority of the provisions go into effect on April 27, 1999. This presentation will outline the most significant changes in the new rules compared with the old and discuss those that will have the greatest impact on medical physicists and the way they practice. Strategies will also be presented for coping with these changes.