



Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council

Comparison: 2011 Standards with 2006 Standards

Welcome to the new 2011 HLAC Standards!

The Mission of HLAC: To accredit laundries processing healthcare textiles based on the highest standards for patient safety and infection prevention

The Vision of HLAC: For all healthcare facilities to specify HLAC accreditation for their textile processors or contractors

HLAC is the only accreditation authority for that sector of the laundry industry involved in processing healthcare textiles used by patients and healthcare personnel. Laundries processing healthcare textiles are encouraged to seek **voluntary accreditation from HLAC**. HLAC's intent is to **elevate the bar of excellence in the laundry industry** with evidence-based references, best practices, and common sense built on the fundamental principles of infection prevention and safety that permeate the healthcare industry.

HLAC accreditation is awarded for a three (3)- year period. To sustain this accreditation, the laundry must reapply for accreditation every three (3) years.

For those laundries considering processing healthcare textiles and, in turn, seeking HLAC accreditation, realize that your entry into the healthcare industry requires a patient-centered focus and your laundry will be viewed by your customers as an extension of their healthcare facility.

Preamble: This portion of the 2011 Standards is more comprehensive and informative compared to the Preamble in the 2006 Standards:

Introduction	States the purpose of the Standards: minimum acceptable healthcare laundry practices
Important Terminology	Defines Universal Precautions; identifies key participants – provider, customer, end user, inspector
Interpretive Guidance	Defines the scoring level associated with each statement's verb – must, shall, should, may
Disclaimer	Focuses on and clarifies the role of the inspector

Standards: This portion of the 2011 Standards is expanded extensively in an outline format, with a step-by-step, systematic approach for processing healthcare textiles in an efficient and safe environment to produce a hygienically clean textile product for patient care.

Content Improvements	
Format	Each Standard statement has a unique number and addresses a single point, not multiple items which previously created scoring problems
Content	Comprehensive and detailed; addresses laundry processes, equipment, functional separation, quality assurance, worker safety, working environmental issues; the new Standards raise the bar for laundry processes and product for healthcare textile reprocessing
Verbs	Greater clarification – scorable statements are clearly identified, and “must” statements are presented in bold-face type
Citations	Each scorable Standard statement includes citations to support the statement, including government regulations, professional association standards, and peer-reviewed literature evidence
<i>Message: Compliance with the new 2011 HLAC Standards will result in patient-focused infection prevention, enhanced infection control and patient safety through the production of a hygienically clean textile product. This benefits you – the provider, your customer, but most importantly the patients in your customer’s healthcare facility!</i>	

Basic Changes	
2011 HLAC Standards	2006 HLAC Standards
Part I. Basic Elements 6 subsections, 3 additional required Standards, 1 major ventilation change, 10 Standards statements with elevated compliance level compared to those Standards from 2006	Part I. Basic Considerations 8 subsections
Part II. The Textile Processing Cycle 6 subsections, 13 Standards statements with elevated compliance level compared to those Standards from 2006	Part II. The Textile Processing Cycle 6 subsections
Part III. Surgical Pack Assembly Room 6 subsections	—

Appendices in the 2011 HLAC Standards: Inform, reference, and acknowledge the many contributions to this first, major revision to the HLAC Standards	
Appendix A: Glossary/Terminology	Provides definitions for terms used in the Standard
Appendix B: Abbreviations	Spells out and defines the abbreviations
Appendix C: Ventilation Parameters for Healthcare Laundry Areas	Provides ventilation specifications in hospital laundry
Appendix D: CFR Text for FDA Devices	Provides the device storage and handling text from FDA in the Code of Federal Regulations
Appendix E: References	Bibliography of the references used in the Standard
Appendix F: Acknowledgements	Outside reviewers and experts providing comment during the revision process
Appendix G: HLAC Board of Directors	2009, 2010, and 2011 HLAC Boards participated in the review and revision process

2011 HLAC Accreditation Standards are posted on the website: www.hlacnet.org