



Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council

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NEW 2011 HLAC STANDARDS RELEASED

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Chicago, IL – The Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) announced the posting of the 2011 Edition of the ***Accreditation Standards for Processing Reusable Textiles for Use in Healthcare Facilities*** on the HLAC website (www.hlacnet.org) with implementation effective on January 1, 2012. HLAC is proud to announce that Canadian laundries processing healthcare textiles may apply for inspection and accreditation for the first time commencing on January 1, 2012, as so many U.S. facilities have done already. Accreditation for a three-year period will be granted to those laundries that satisfactorily meet the inspection requirements. This is a voluntary process that laundries may apply for initially and, subsequently every three years thereafter, if they desire to maintain accreditation.

The 2011 Accreditation Standards is the first major revision since the initial 2006 Standards. This revision is a three-year culmination of extensive research, multiple drafts, diverse vetting groups (i.e., internal, external, and public), comment review, and text revisions. The addition of a Part III, Surgical Pack Assembly Room, addresses those laundries that prepare textiles designated for surgical and/or invasive procedures and further processing at the healthcare facility. Other expanded features include terminology revisions, interpretative guidance on compliance requirements, citations per standard, expanded glossary, extensive reference list, appendices, acknowledgements, and the HLAC Board of Directors participants. The 2011 Standards are a more comprehensive assessment for reprocessing healthcare textiles within and by the laundries and healthcare facilities.

It is with great anticipation coupled with expert team contributions through lively debates and consensus that HLAC acknowledges the comprehensive expansion of the Accreditation Standards focused on the end users: the patient and health care personnel.

The HLAC Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges all persons who participated in this revision process and their willingness to strengthen the Standards to reflect the high level of consistent adherence to a principle of workflow pattern supportive of infection prevention and control toward quality and safe patient care.

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About HLAC

Founded in 2005, HLAC is an independent council that has developed a comprehensive set of standards for healthcare textile processing. It is the only organization that exclusively inspects and accredits laundries that process healthcare textiles. To learn more about the Standards, and the inspection and accreditation program, visit www.hlacnet.org