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## HLAC ANNOUNCES BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2008

*More than 70 laundries have signed up for accreditation*

FAIRWAY, KS, 12/27/07 — At its Dec. 10 board meeting in Chicago, the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) announced its 2008 Board of Directors. In addition, it was noted that HLAC has more than 70 laundries accredited or signed up for inspection to become accredited. To date, 36 laundries have received accreditation (*see attached list of accredited laundries*).

HLAC's mission is to publish high standards for laundering healthcare textiles, and to provide an inspection and accreditation process that recognizes those laundries that meet these high standards. The decision to become accredited is completely voluntary.

### 2008 Board of Directors

HLAC's officers for 2008 are Chairperson Judy Reino, Vice Chairperson Steve Tinker, Secretary/Treasurer Rick Kislia and Past Chairperson Dave Stern. The HLAC board of directors includes: Patti Costello, Linda Fairbanks, Nancy Bjerke, Bob Pfeifer, Randy Wendland, CLLM, Woody Ostrow, and Lynne Schulster, PhD, M(ASCP). It was also noted at the board meeting that Chris Isely will leave HLAC at the end of the year. The board extends its appreciation for the work Chris has performed over the past three years in organizing HLAC and establishing the basic operation. HLAC's executive committee is conducting a search for a new executive director.

"We have an excellent board of directors and I look forward to growing HLAC with their assistance," says Chairperson Judy Reino of Reino Linen, Gibsonburg, Ohio. "Reino Linen was the first laundry to become accredited back in April 2006. It's not the easiest process to prepare for inspection, but if you form a team, follow HLAC's guidelines and tackle the process in a logical way, you can pass the inspection and become accredited. It's all about documenting safety, training and processing procedures.

"I believe every healthcare laundry should become accredited," Reino says. "If we want to increase the use of reusable textiles and grow our businesses, it's important to increase the professionalism of what we do."

### Why Accreditation?

The primary benefit of accreditation is that an independent third party has inspected the laundry and found that it meets or exceeds the highest standards for processing healthcare textiles. A laundry cannot inspect and accredit itself and its customers generally do not have the time or expertise to conduct inspections.

The HLAC accreditation process was developed with several industry groups, including:

- Association of Linen Management (ALM)
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
- American Reusable Textile Association (ARTA)
- American Society for Healthcare Environmental Services (ASHES)
- International Association for Healthcare Textile Management (IAHTM)
- Textile Rental Services Association (TRSA)

For more information on HLAC and the benefits of accreditation, check the HLAC website at [www.hlacnet.org](http://www.hlacnet.org).