



# Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council

For Immediate Release

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## HLAC Proposes Ways for the Independent Laundry To Overcome Cost Issues of Healthcare Accreditation

LAS VEGAS – Oct. 28, 2013 – The Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council ([HLAC](http://www.hlacnet.org)) recently shared ideas for those independent laundries resisting accreditation because of concerns that it's too expensive.

"The benefits realized from accreditation – in advancing patient safety, quality improvement, credibility, competitiveness and learning – all combine to outweigh the costs involved," said Gregory Gicewicz, vice president of HLAC, a nonprofit organization that inspects and accredits healthcare laundries. "And there are plenty of ways to meet accreditation requirements without breaking the bank."

Gicewicz made his comments during a presentation at a recent "Business Builders 2013" conference hosted in Las Vegas by the Universal-UniLink Purchasing Association, a group purchasing organization that serves members in the business of uniforms, textiles, laundries, wearables and promotional products.

In his presentation, "The Benefits of HLAC Accreditation for the Independent Laundry," Gicewicz drew from his own experience as the owner and operator of a laundry processing healthcare textiles. Gicewicz's presentation is available for download at [www.hlacnet.org](http://www.hlacnet.org).

"I, too, initially resisted the idea of HLAC accreditation for fear of having to invest thousands of dollars in new systems and processes to meet requirements or risk failing inspection," he said. "But I soon discovered accreditation wasn't too expensive for me, especially when I talked to others who've been through the process and applied some money-saving ideas."

Among them:

- To correct air flow, installing fans in strategic areas of the plant vs. investing in a multi-thousand dollar HVAC system
- To detect proper airflow, install streamers visibly in strategic locations of your plant vs. installing expensing airflow monitoring devices
- Cover existing wooden surfaces with a non-porous material such as linoleum rather than purchasing new and expensive folding tables
- For proper record keeping, using readily available spreadsheet software programs vs. investing in an expensive off-the-shelf maintenance program
- Using one's chemical provider for HLAC-required activities such as regular chemical titrations, water testing, use of EPA registered chemical disinfectants, and linen testing
- Taking advantage of the free templates regarding government regulations that are available online vs. creating your own from scratch.

Since his own business became accredited in 2011, Gicewicz said he has seen a significant increase in revenue; pounds processed, pounds processed per operator hour and pounds processed per hour; a dramatic reduction in water use per pound of linen processed; more than double the number of customers; and an increase in the number of employees.

"Going through the process of HLAC accreditation raised many bars for our laundry," he said. "We're a better company all around and our customers especially appreciate our support of their own strategies."

**About HLAC**

The Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) is a nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of inspecting and accrediting laundries processing healthcare textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities.

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