



News Release
Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council

HLAC Touts Benefits of Accreditation At ARTA Education Conference

Top 3: Quality Improvement, Customer Satisfaction, Patient Safety

FRANKFORT, IL - March 13, 2014 - From a commercial laundry's point of view, quality improvement, customer satisfaction and patient safety are the Top 3 reasons for why a laundry should pursue accreditation, according to Rocco Romeo, immediate past president and current board member of the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC).

Romeo, who also is chief executive officer of HLS Linen Services of Ottawa, Canada, made his comments at the American Reusable Textile Association (ARTA) 2014 Education Conference held in Orlando, FL, Feb. 26-28. He was part of a panel discussion, "The Laundry's Viewpoint: Ensuring Standards of Quality," on the benefits of accreditation programs designed to ensure that healthcare laundries meet the highest processing standards.

"Accredited laundries are committed to excellence and leaders in the industry in their support of standards, raising the bar and industry self-regulation," Romeo said. "Every department process has been studied, benchmarked, adjusted and improved as a result."

Regarding quality improvement, Romeo said among the benefits of accreditation include consistent results in cleanliness, better customer communication and increased competencies regarding laundry science. "There is a heightened awareness and integration of healthcare protocols at the laundry," he said.

As for customer satisfaction, Romeo noted that healthcare professionals are becoming increasingly aware of accreditation programs like HLAC's. "The smarter healthcare facilities are opting to do their business with laundries that have their accreditation, and they're communicating this information about patient safety to their publics. It's a competitive advantage."

And, regarding patient safety, Romeo told conference attendees that HLAC standards are developed from both laundry operations and infection prevention expertise. "Our entire process of accreditation is based on fundamentally sound principles intended to provide the highest level of ongoing assurance."

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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