



**News Release**  
**Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council**

## **HLAC Introduces Mideast Countries to the Benefits Of Accreditation, Standards at Region's First Laundry Trade Show Held in Dubai**

PLAINFIELD, IL - Dec. 9, 2015 - The Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) exhibited at the [Gulf Laundrex Linen Care Expo](#) held in Dubai, UAE. The conference was held during Middle East Cleaning Technology Week, a forum bringing together representatives of the cleaning and hygiene industries from the Mideast and North African (MENA) region. The event was billed as the region's first laundry trade show.

Representing HLAC were board president Gregory Gicewicz and board member Thomas Scheidel. HLAC is a nonprofit organization that inspects and accredits laundries worldwide that process reusable textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities.

"Our purpose in attending the trade show was to introduce to the growing Mideast healthcare systems and laundries the benefits of standards and accreditation," Gicewicz said.

"Our booth received tremendous interest from laundry owners and operators as well as supporting industries - laundry consultants, linen and equipment suppliers, training companies and government officials."

Gicewicz said he was impressed by the level of professionalism and knowledge of booth visitors and their "hunger to do the right thing" in the name of patient safety. "Clearly, they're aware of patient safety issues and they consider accreditation among those 'right things,' but overall healthcare standards are lacking in the region and the healthcare laundry standards are severely lacking."

Blaise Vas, Managing Director of the Linen Cupboard Laundry - a medical laundry focused on bringing together global best practices in laundry within the UAE healthcare sector - said, "Current global ISO certifications apply only partially to the laundry sector. Setting measurable standards in hygiene within laundries, especially medical laundries, is now paramount as the MENA region continues to grow at a staggering rate of 12% annually with no signs of slowing down. Therefore, the introduction of a globally accepted accreditation such as HLAC would add considerable value to the UAE's burgeoning health care market and would probably be welcomed at all levels, both public and private."

Scheidel, who has been consulting in the region for the past 18 months, agreed that healthcare laundry in the region is "generally without regulation and inspection." He added, "Laundry owners and operators who are seeking guidance and a way to differentiate themselves from others have found a new and valuable resource in HLAC."

During the trade show, Gicewicz also participated on a panel of laundry experts with the topic, "Business strategies for maximizing productivity, revenue boosting and the challenges involved in running a laundry in the Middle East."

"We see a large demand for laundry accreditation in the Middle East," he said.

### **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. For more information, [www.hlacnet.org](http://www.hlacnet.org), on Twitter @NewsHlac.

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