



News Release Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council

Ebola Fears Prompt Call from HLAC Urging 'Diligence to the Highest Standards' In Following Safest Laundry Procedures

PLAINFIELD, IL - AUG. 25, 2014 - As concerned healthcare officials in the United States continue to monitor the global Ebola emergency and its potential to spread, the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) is urging its accredited laundries to maintain their diligence in following the safe laundry procedures set forth in its standards for processing healthcare textiles.

"HLAC-accredited laundries meet the highest standards for processing healthcare textiles based on federal regulations and best industry practices," said Gregory Gicewicz, president of HLAC, which inspects and accredits healthcare laundries. "These standards - when followed and maintained - cover the complete textile processing cycle, from handling and transporting, laundering and finishing, to customer service.

"The healthcare customer of an HLAC-accredited laundry can confidently expect a consistent and smooth flow of clean textiles; and, ultimately, the knowledge of safety for their employees and the end user - the patient," Gicewicz said.

In the wake of the Ebola emergency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided a [link](#), Interim Guidance For Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals for Ebola Virus that "cover topics related to waste, linens and recommended personal protective equipment for Environmental Services," he said.

In addition to the CDC guidelines, Gicewicz said there also are HLAC standards and procedures that are particularly relevant to the Ebola emergency and can be found in [Accreditation Standards for Processing Reusable Textiles for use in Healthcare Facilities, 2011 Edition](#), which is available at HLAC's [website](#). These include:

- Part I, Section 2, on Laundry Facilities
- Part I, Section 5, on Laundry Personnel
- Part I, Section 7, on Quality Assessment
- Part II, Section 1, on Handling, Collection and Transportation of Soiled Healthcare Textiles
- Part II, Section 2, on Sorting
- Part II, Section 3, on Washing and Extraction.

Adherence to these standards and procedures would be essential if the Ebola outbreak were to spread to the United States with any consequence, Gicewicz 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.

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