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ST★R Report

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Destinations Marked with the GBAC STAR

The Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), a division of ISSA, decided to take a good thing and make it even better when it developed the GBAC STAR Destination product. By seeking this designation, cities, counties, tourist spots and more can now boast the GBAC seal of safety and health for visitors and businesses coming to their areas.

According to Steve Arehart, GBAC Director of Technical Operations, GBAC STAR Destination is expanding on the highly successful GBAC STAR Facility and Service Accreditations by growing to a wider coverage area. Communities are banding together in marketing campaigns with mass gathering venues, restaurants, transportation hubs, shopping areas, hotels and many other facilities to encourage their participation in the GBAC STAR family, or highlight the GBAC STAR accreditations already awarded to them. The objective is to showcase the commitment made by these destinations — their businesses — to continually drive the message of cleaning for



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Palm Beach, Florida



health that instills confidence and trust in employees, consumers, tourists and businesses alike.

“Our mission remains to ensure that people understand the role that hygiene and cleaning play in the spread of infectious disease, and how compliance, continuous improvement, auditing and documentation management enhance their effectiveness,” Arehart said. “The idea is to take what we’re already doing: Providing third-party accreditation to facilities, service providers and more, but have this as a tool to reach more broadly within a community to aid it in bringing back business, events and tourism to their towns that they may have lost through the pandemic.”

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“Having the GBAC STAR Destination designation helps bridge the gap between business and families that are eager to travel, host events or be entertained, and the cities that can offer those things with the assurance that sustainable measures have been taken for the health and safety of the people and events it hosts,” Arehart said. “This designation helps those businesses and travelers evaluate their experience through the lens of hygiene and health when

looking at their transportation, lodging, events or attractions they attend and where they eat when deciding where to travel.”

Arehart adds facilities and service providers in these destinations can participate in GBAC STAR boot camps specific to their areas to help expedite their accreditation process with help from a GBAC Account Manager and a GBAC Technical Analyst.

If a city manager, tourism bureau leader, chamber of commerce member or others are interested in achieving this certification, Steve recommends they email gbacstar@issa.com. In addition, more information on GBAC Destinations will be available on the GBAC website after July 15. ☆

Build on Your Foundation: Renew Your GBAC STAR Accreditation

The GBAC STAR™ reaccreditation process is up and running, and is packed with new learnings. As Katie Cook, Program Manager, GBAC, explains, more than 4,000 facilities make up the GBAC STAR Family at this time, and it's anticipated most will apply for reaccreditation. Those renewing can build on their solid foundations so the process will not be as daunting as last year, when facilities received their initial accreditation.

"It's really about how well facilities have maintained their documents throughout the year, and it will not take as long as the original accreditation process. It will be more about reviewing documents instead of having to create them," Cook said. "The facilities I've talked to so far are excited about reaccreditation. They've been watching their goals, they've hit those goals and they want to put that in their documentation. Also, they're seeing the benefits of having these audits and inspections, which have helped monitor the processes they put into place."

About 90 days from a facility's reaccreditation date, an email with details on the process will be sent. Sixty days out, another email with an invoice will be sent, with the recipient confirming the process. "After they pay that invoice, facilities receive access to our reaccreditation scorecard," Cook said. "This is the document they will review to gather information for their reaccreditation."

The reaccreditation process includes these new learnings:

- Updates to Element 16, which strengthens infection prevention measures and highlights indoor air considerations
- The highly demanded GBAC STAR Guidance for Indoor Air Considerations
- Multi-year discounts for GBAC STAR reaccreditation
- Updated GBAC Fundamentals Course with new guidance and best practices



- GBAC Academy — Virtual and hands-on training and education opportunities
- GBAC Webinar Series (free to the GBAC STAR Family)
- GBAC Registered Programs and Technology
- GBAC Coaching Services.

"This is a continuous improvement program," Cook said. "Reaccreditation is the next step in maintaining improvements for these documents and processes that were put into place throughout the last year."

Cook went on to add that continuing accreditation through the GBAC STAR Family offers extensive benefits, especially the new webinar series and the new training opportunities. "We'll continue to add to the benefits of membership in the GBAC STAR Family program," she said.

Facilities that are due for reaccreditation this summer will be contacted directly by a GBAC Team member. For those due this fall, you will receive your reaccreditation information 90 days before your anniversary date. To learn more about this process, contact GBAC Sales at <https://gbac.issa.com/contact>.

Thousands of buildings, stadiums, hotels and other facilities have committed incredible resources to be awarded GBAC STAR. The GBAC STAR seal shows a facility or service provider implements the industry's highest standards for cleaning, disinfection and infection prevention measures — not only for COVID-19 but for other infectious diseases, too. More infectious disease outbreaks will follow and we must be prepared for a scalable response, from routine hygienic cleaning to full pandemic response. ★



GBAC Fundamentals Online Course Reboot is Live

The “reboot” of the GBAC Fundamentals Online Course offered by the Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), a division of ISSA, is now live. New modules include COVID-19 Updates, Risk Assessment Basics, Cleaning, Disinfecting and New Tools and Equipment, which are presented by highly experienced and knowledgeable instructors from GBAC.

The course trains attendees to prepare for, respond to and recover from biohazards to operate a sustainable and safe workplace. Participants will learn infection and contamination control measures for infectious disease outbreak situations for SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses.

“The 2021 GBAC Fundamentals Online Course employs much of the same basic content, but with a redesign that enhances your knowledge with three new learning objectives,” Melissa Wernersbach, GBAC Academy Education Manager, GBAC, said. “Upon completion, you’ll understand the key principles of cleaning and disinfection for infectious diseases in the workplace, identify tools and processes for successful cleaning and disinfection and apply the proper procedures for cleaning and disinfection.”

The 2021 GBAC Fundamentals Online Course includes information on the origin, symptoms and current treatments of COVID-19, as well as actionable insights for those responsible for cleaning and disinfecting areas that may be contaminated with

the coronavirus. Upon completion, participants will be armed with the knowledge to respond to and recover from biohazards in the workplace. Individuals who complete the course within 30 days of enrollment will receive a Certificate of Completion from GBAC and be rewarded with the title of GBAC-Trained Technician.

“GBAC-Trained Technicians bring increased value to their employers and customers because they demonstrate the competence to carry out their responsibilities, and they have a commitment to the standards of excellence and continuous learning,” Patty Olinger, Executive Director, GBAC, said. “They are professionals with the planning, knowledge and processes needed to respond to an infectious disease in the workplace.”

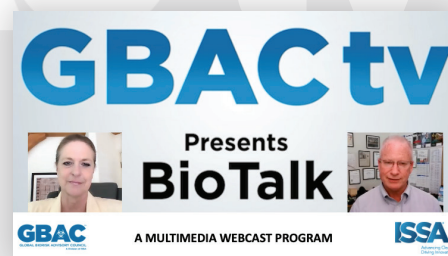
Sign up now to engage with the 2021 GBAC Fundamentals Online Course at GBAC Academy at gbacademy.issa.com or in the ISSA Online Bookstore. The course is US\$150 for ISSA members and \$300 for nonmembers. If you are a member of ISSA and purchasing through the GBAC Academy, send an email to gbacademy@issa.com and request a coupon code to take advantage of your member pricing. If you have any questions, reach out to us at gbacademy@issa.com. ☆

GBAC[®]tv

How the Big Leagues Confronted COVID-19

It took a team effort to reopen stadiums, arenas and ball parks to fans after calling a time-out as the pandemic emerged.

Sam Coghill, vice president of operations for the NFL’s Miami Dolphins, and Ignacio Guerra, vice president of operations and parking for the STAPLES Center, home of the NBA’s Los Angeles Lakers and the Los Angeles Clippers, the NHL’s Los Angeles Kings and the WNBA’s Los Angeles Sparks share their learnings on the latest BioTalk, a presentation of GBACtv, a webcast series produced by the Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), a Division of ISSA, and ISSA Media.



Coghill and Guerra discuss the present state of professional sports and the hurdles their organizations faced during the past 18 months. With the guidance of GBAC, they navigated reopening and developed “creative pivots” to keep attendees safely socially distanced but also socially engaged.

View this discussion and all the GBACtv video content at gbac.issa.com/media/gbactv/. ☆

New Items in the GBAC Store

Unique pieces to proclaim your achievement of GBAC STAR™ accreditation to visitors, customers, competitors and employees are always available at the GBAC STAR Store. New items are regularly added, so it makes sense to browse and fill your cart often at the GBAC STAR Store.

New items include:

- **GBAC STAR Facility and Service Team Member Patches** identify you and your employees as a GBAC STAR Facility or Service Team Member. The GBAC Star Facility Team Member Patch shows customers your facility maintains the right protocols for cleaning and spaces have been disinfected to higher standards. Providers

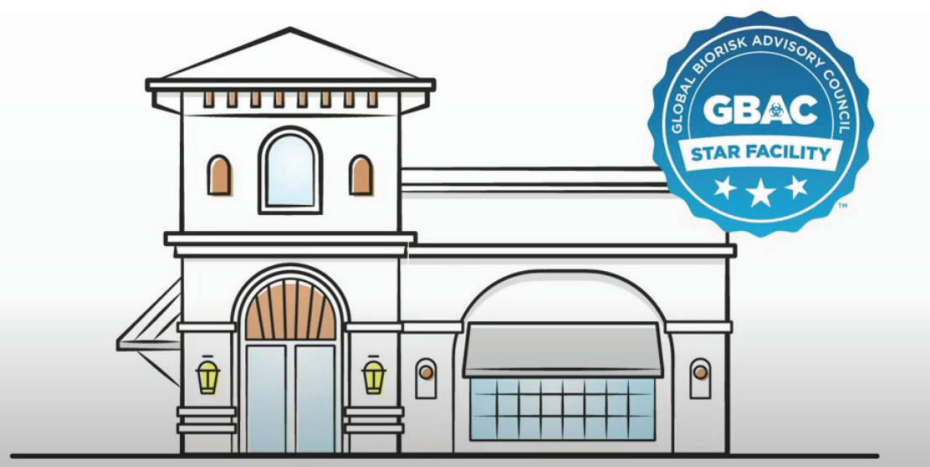
can display the GBAC STAR Service Team Member Patch to demonstrate they are implementing the industry's highest standards for cleaning and disinfection. Two-and-a-half-inch woven patch with a long-lasting merrowed border and iron-on backing. Sold in packs of five.

- **GBAC STAR Facility and Service Lapel Pins** help display your GBAC STAR accreditation. A GBAC STAR Lapel Pin shows your pride in being part of a facility or company that maintains the right protocols for cleaning and disinfection. This soft enamel lapel pin features a high-quality finish and bright vibrant colors. Comes with butterfly clutch. Packed in lots of five.



- **GBAC-Trained Technician Patch** identifies your team as cleaning professionals with the planning, knowledge and processes needed to respond to a biohazard crisis in the workplace. Two-and-a-half-inch woven patch with a long-lasting merrowed border and iron-on backing. Sold in packs of five.

Proudly and easily communicate the news of your impressive achievement by displaying the GBAC STAR to your customers, competitors, vendors and staff by purchasing from the GBAC STAR Store. Visit GBAC.org/Store. ★



Video to Help Educate Others on GBAC STAR

Your facility has worked hard to gain its GBAC STAR™ accreditation, and you want to communicate that achievement with customers, staff and visitors. In addition to decals, patches and pins from the GBAC

STAR Store, the Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), a division of ISSA, features other tools to share this news.

An informative video is offered by ISSA to help you communicate what the GBAC STAR™ seal signifies, and

what it means for a space to be GBAC STAR clean. This video demonstrates that your facility has put stringent disinfection protocols in place, provides exceptional training for cleaning staff and uses a science-backed process for keeping the space safe and healthy. The space a guest or customer visits may look clean and smell clean, but the GBAC STAR seal gives them the added trust and confidence that it truly is clean and disinfected to a higher standard.

"To educate others about your accreditation, you might consider posting this video to your facility website where it can be viewed by visitors," Tony Vorasorn, Marketing and Communications Manager, ISSA, said. "Another great opportunity is including a link to this video in an email."

The video and set of Questions and Answers that you can employ to educate others about your accomplishment and what it means are available at GBAC.org/Info. ★

GBAC STAR Registered Programs and Technology

Companies that have tools to assist customers in addressing their cleaning, disinfection and infection prevention measures can apply to register their program or program elements with the Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), a division of ISSA. Later this summer, GBAC STAR Registered Programs and Technology™ will launch with the intent of showing how the business' program or technology aligns with the GBAC STAR™ Accreditation Program.

GBAC Registered Technology sets out specific requirements for manufacturers to register their equipment, products and more with GBAC. Requirements need to be met and be verified by the GBAC Scientific Advisory Board before a specific technology is registered, and is limited to technology that is marketed and commercially available.

Sydney Schauer, GBAC Analyst, is a key member of the review team and serves as a liaison between facilities and manufacturers and the GBAC Scientific Advisory Board. "We currently have GBAC accredited service providers and facilities, and this new program will be focused on reviewing and registering programs and products," Schauer said. "A manufacturer will submit its product or program to us and our scientific advisory board will review it to determine if it meets the specific standards and requirements. When the product or program is

approved by GBAC, the manufacturer can then promote its product as a GBAC-registered product."

Even now, GBAC is seeing a huge range of different products, focused on cleaning and disinfecting, that can apply for the GBAC Registered Technology Program. "We have seen products from hand sanitizers to new ultraviolet lighting products. However, a key segment of this effort is on improving air quality," Schauer said. "Much of our focus in the upcoming reaccreditations and accreditations will be on air quality improvement such as air filtration and air purification systems."

Schauer added that GBAC STAR companies that assist customers in addressing their cleaning, disinfection and infection prevention measures can apply to register their program or program elements through GBAC STAR Registered Programs. The intent is to demonstrate how the program and/or element aligns with GBAC STAR accreditation. Some examples include:

- Training
- Audit
- Continuous Improvement
- Health and Safety
- Cleaning and/or disinfection and more.

When the GBAC STAR Registered Programs and Technology is officially launched, registration to complete the process will be posted on the GBAC website. ☆



GBAC STAR Registered Programs and Technology will launch with the intent of showing how the business's program or technology aligns with the GBAC STAR Accreditation Program.



Zeroing in on updated information for GBAC Virtual Bootcamp

The Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), a division of ISSA, is keenly focused on continuous improvement in all of its processes. Given that passion, more compact and concise learnings are being incorporated into the GBAC Virtual Bootcamp, and will be finalized for the next session set for July 26-27.

"Here at GBAC, we are passionate about continuous improvement. As we have moved through the pandemic, information has changed, and we want our training to reflect current events and information," Hannah Wright, GBAC Analyst, GBAC, said. "Furthermore, we have not updated the Bootcamp since the launch of GBAC STAR Service Provider Accreditation Program, and want to provide content relevant for both facility and service accreditation. The hope is that these updates will help simplify the process, and facilities or service providers will be able to submit their documentation after completing the Bootcamp."

Wright explains reducing some of the scientific language, along with including updated information, will enhance comprehension of the materials in each of the 20 elements. In addition, more time will be spent on the more challenging elements and new templates will be provided to enhance comprehension. Additional presenters with commanding backgrounds in public health will bring more depth and learning opportunities to the curriculum. Poll questions will be included

to make the course more interactive and immediately demonstrate the attendees' level of understanding to the presenters.

With this more targeted content and explanations, GBAC Virtual Bootcamp will be shortened to two days instead of three, and each day is two hours in length. Time-strapped facilities will find the revamping of GBAC Virtual Bootcamp offers impressive learning experiences for all attendees.

"The GBAC Virtual Bootcamp gives facilities and service providers access to the technical review team, where they have the opportunity to learn in detail how to document the elements and why they are important," Wright said. "Most importantly, we'll utilize time for live questions and feedback which can drastically speed up the review process."

Wright added that finishing touches are being crafted for a new GBAC STAR Workbook for attendees, which combines the Model for Accreditation and new templates to make the submission and documentation process easier.

Whether you have already attended a GBAC Virtual Bootcamp, the decision to attend this updated session should be considered. "Our goal with the new updates is to give you all the information and resources you need so you do not need to attend again," Wright said. "But a second round of attendance is always an option, although registration is limited." ★

For more information on the GBAC Virtual Bootcamp, email gbacstar@issa.com. To sign up, visit <https://gbacademy.issa.com/product/sign-up-today-gbac-star-20-element-bootcamp-ju>.

Looking Ahead

Framing Your Work in the GBAC STAR Photo Contest

A picture is worth a thousand words, and it could net you a \$100 gift card in the GBAC STAR Monthly Photo Contest. Photos can be examples of success stories, challenges or solutions to challenges that you face in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for guests and co-workers. Send your photo, a completed release form which is available at <https://gbac.issa.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Photo-Release-Form.pdf> and a 100-word description on how you obtained your results to gbacstar@issa.com. Each month, GBAC STAR will choose a winner to receive a \$100 gift card and two honorable mentions to receive \$50 gift cards.

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A Reboot of GBAC STAR Bootcamp

The next session of the virtual GBAC STAR Bootcamp is set for July 26-27, running from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. EDT each day. Only 100 participants are allowed each month for the Virtual Bootcamp and signing up early is highly encouraged. This course will be the newly updated GBAC STAR Bootcamp, a two-day digital briefing that reviews the accreditation process and takes a deep dive into the 20 elements. To learn more about virtual GBAC STAR Bootcamp and register for the course, visit <https://gbacademy.issa.com/product/sign-up-today-gbac-star-20-element-bootcamp-ju>.



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