

Trust the science behind the seal.



ST★R Report

The Power of GBAC STAR™ Health, Wellness, Resilience

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The Power of GBAC STAR™ Health, Wellness, Resilience

As we enter the New Year, our resolve to protect the health of our many business stakeholders should not wane. Facilities, companies and individuals must maintain their dutiful watch to help ensure the safety of our employees, customers, vendors, communities and the citizens who call them home. By working with GBAC, your organization has the power to implement

the industry's highest standards for cleaning and disinfection of infectious agents. GBAC STAR™ is the cleaning industry's best solution for outbreak prevention, response, recovery and resiliency.

With GBAC STAR, your business can demonstrate to customers, staff and key stakeholders a commitment to:

- Establishing and maintaining a cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease-prevention program to minimize risks associated with infectious agents.
- Employing proper cleaning protocols, disinfection techniques and work practices in place to combat biohazards and infectious disease.
- Offering highly informed cleaning professionals who are trained for outbreak and infectious disease preparation and response.

With GBAC STAR, you are not only demonstrating your commitment to protecting your employees' and customers' health and well-being in a safe, responsible and sustainable way, but also shaping a healthier and safer world.

How Does GBAC STAR Help?

- Aligns your infection prevention, cleaning and disinfection programs with science.
- Ensures the ability to convene with confidence everywhere in your facility.
- Encourages health and wellness, while building trust and resilience.
- Highlights your Environmental, Social and Governance Efforts
- Assists you in focusing on environmental, social and governance (ESG) priorities.

GBAC STAR facilities and organizations use their accreditation to support and demonstrate commitment to health and wellness, and a more sustainable, resilient world. In addition, GBAC STAR Accreditation supports your organization's commitment to the United Nations Sustainability Goals by helping you meet these environmental, social responsibility and governance (ESG) objectives.

Your Way to Success with GBAC Tools

GBAC offers many opportunities for your company to conduct business in ways that protect your key stakeholders. Your company may achieve one or several of the certifications offered by GBAC on your journey to providing outbreak prevention, response, recovery and resiliency.

GBAC STAR™ Facility Accreditation

- Apply for the cleaning industry's only health and wellness accreditation for facilities.

Successful GBAC STAR facilities and organizations demonstrate their commitment to cultivating healthy environments with science-based practices.

To learn more, visit <https://gbac.issa.com/gbac-star-facility-accreditation>.

GBAC STAR™ Service Accreditation

- Position your facility services business as a strategic partner in achieving social responsibility

GBAC STAR™ by the Numbers

- 1000+** Current number of hotels and hospitality venues accredited
- 600+** Mass-gathering and large audience venues accredited
- 100+** Transportation-related venues accredited
- 26** GBAC STAR destination cities in the United States and Canada

through science-based cleaning and wellness.

GBAC STAR Service Accreditation validates that a cleaning company's practices help its customers meet environmental, health and social responsibility goals.

To learn more, visit <https://gbac.issa.com/gbac-star-facility-accreditation>.

GBAC STAR™ Destination Designation

- Demonstrate your community's commitment to health, wellness and resilience.

The GBAC STAR Destination program empowers communities to foster a comprehensive strategy of health, wellness and resilience for visitors, employees and community members through GBAC STAR Facility or Service accreditation.

To learn more, visit <https://gbac.issa.com/gbac-star-destination>.

GBAC STAR™ Registered

- Demonstrate to customers that your programs, products or technologies enhance facility health with the GBAC STAR Registered Seal.

Successful GBAC STAR™ Registrations provide assurance to customers that the registered program, product

or technology has been assessed by the GBAC Advisory Council Scientific Board for scientific validity, usability, practicality, safety and efficacy.

To learn more, visit <https://gbac.issa.com/gbac-star-registered-programs>.

To view a list of accredited facilities, visit <https://gbacstardirectory.issa.com>.

GBAC Academy

- Training to enhance facility health and wellness.

The GBAC Academy is an online learning platform available to professionals of all levels. Our expert-led training resources will help you implement programs that promote facility health and wellness. Education and training provide continuous improvement opportunities to build health, wellness and resilience against future challenges.

To learn more, visit https://learning.issa.com/courses?category_ids%5B%5D=6555.

These are just a few of the many tools available to you as a member of the GBAC Family. Offering the industry's highest standards for cleaning and disinfection of infectious agents is not a difficult path when you employ the power of GBAC as a key part of the solution. ★

Going Online with GBAC STAR™ Accreditation Workshop

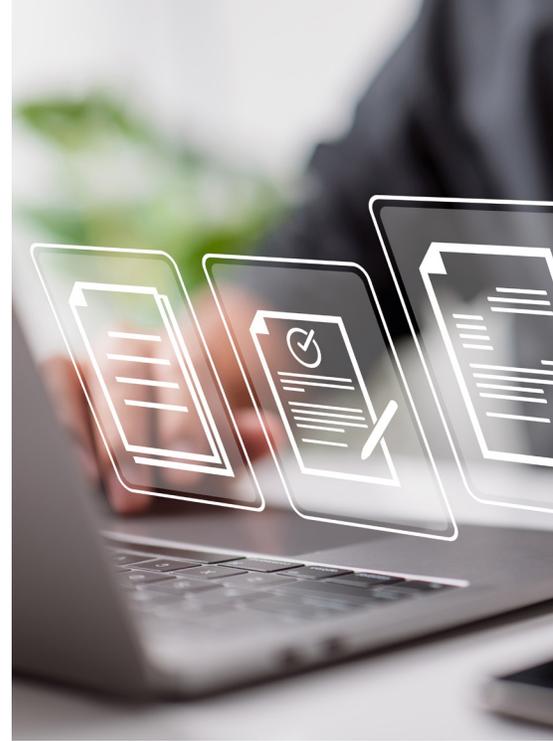
GBAC is proud of its leadership helping communities across the world focus on cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention for many stakeholders. The organization constantly searches for opportunities to improve its ability to guide facilities and providers on this journey. Now, the GBAC STAR™ Accreditation Program is expanding its outreach by offering learnings online for clients going through accreditation/reaccreditation. The online GBAC STAR 20 Elements Workshop is up and running.

“An online presentation of the GBAC STAR 20 Program elements is needed because it allows our facilities to learn about each element at their own pace, working through knowledge checks and activities to help them better understand each element,” Katrina Brown, GBAC Analyst and key architect of this online presence, said. “It mirrors the current webinar training in the examples that are shared, and ultimately has much of the same information/ explanations of the elements. The difference lies mostly in that it is going

at the students’ pace and has more activities throughout the course to aid in retention of the information shared. It’s an alternative option to attending the live webinar that is only hosted every other month currently.”

The GBAC STAR Accreditation Program is based on a quality management system approach, which enables an organization to effectively identify, assess, control and evaluate their program associated with cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention. GBAC STAR is the gold standard of healthy and resilient facilities. Not only are GBAC STAR-accredited facilities equipped and ready for what could happen next, they are also able to adapt quickly and withstand challenges.

“The online training should help our organizations with filling out their GBAC Accreditation workbook, as it provides information on what our GBAC reviewers are looking for and examples of how to fill out each element in the workbook,” Brown said. She added that there is no limit



to the number of employees taking the online GBAC Accreditation course. This decision is solely up to company leadership guiding the direction of its cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention program.

“The GBAC Reaccreditation is still based on the 20 elements, and this course will act more as a refresher of the 20 elements for those going through reaccreditation. The reaccreditation process requires a scorecard to be filled out, asking specific questions about process changes,” Brown said. “The course can still aid those going through reaccreditation by helping them understand elements that may have been a struggle as they implemented the GBAC STAR Program over the last year or two.”

The GBAC STAR Accreditation Program is performance-based and designed to help facilities establish a comprehensive program for healthy spaces. This includes strategies for infection prevention and cleaning for health that promotes wellness for building occupants, visitors, staff and their community. The complexity of the application process depends upon the size and scope of the organization, but GBAC is now offering a way to complete accreditation or reaccreditation at the pace a company can accommodate with its business demands.

If you’re interested in joining the thousands of other companies that are proud to be a member of the GBAC Family, work with your current GBAC Team member or send an email request to gbacademy@issa.com. ★



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Kikkoman Biochemifa Company

Cleaning Up Success with GBAC STAR

Every day, facilities and providers experience first-hand the incredible benefits of being a member of the GBAC STAR™ Family. More than 4,000 have called upon the immense capabilities and knowledge of the GBAC team to help ensure the safety of their workplaces and communities.



Ian Charlery, CEO
AI Cleaning Services,

A recent addition to the GBAC STAR family is AI Cleaning Services, which has served Grand Cayman in the Cayman Islands for over 20 years. AI Cleaning Services is a certified green cleaning business and possesses the highest standard certification from the International Janitorial Cleaning Services Association. Recently, the company proudly added the GBAC STAR to its achievements.

GBAC STAR Report talked with Ian Charlery, CEO, AI Cleaning Services, about this significant accomplishment.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE VALUE OF THE GBAC STAR, ESPECIALLY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER?

“Customers are demanding more from their cleaning services providers. They want more frequent cleanings and higher competency in securing their spaces against infectious diseases. The GBAC STAR demonstrates to the client that the service provider is committed to continuous improvement and dedicated to upholding the highest standard in cleaning. The accreditation marks a sign of proactive preparation in providing cleaning services.

“Although not easily quantifiable, I am of the belief that this commitment to continuous improvement is the mindset necessary in shifting the culture of an organization. For us this



The GBAC STAR demonstrates to the client that the service provider is committed to continuous improvement and dedicated to upholding the highest standard in cleaning. The accreditation marks a sign of proactive preparation in providing cleaning services.

is a step towards continuing our journey of raising the standard of cleaning services being delivered throughout our beautiful islands.

HOW HAS IT POSITIVELY IMPACTED YOUR JANITORIAL SERVICES?

“The positive impact is felt throughout our team as our clients show their appreciation that we would take extra steps to ensure their safety in the fight against infectious diseases.”

WHAT WOULD BE KEY POINTS YOU WOULD USE TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO SEEK THE GBAC STAR?

“The two key points that come to mind are simply that:

- 1) GBAC STAR is a great way to communicate your dedication to higher service delivery.
- 2) We often work inside our businesses and not on them. Attaining GBAC STAR accreditation allows

you to stand confidently that you are proactively working on your business whilst being tapped into a greater network of matters relating to infectious disease prevention and control.”

AI Cleaning prides itself on the ability to meet the needs of commercial or residential clients through its certification as a GBAC STAR Service provider. The company is skilled with all aspects of carpet upholstery, post-construction, office, clinic, pre- or post-event pressure-washing and floor cleaning services in various environments, which is delivered professionally and on-time.

For more information on AI Cleaning, visit <https://www.aicleaningservices.ky>.

To learn more about GBAC STAR Service accreditation, visit <https://gbac.issa.com/gbac-star-service-accreditation>. ★

Trusted Advisor Shines Bright for GBAC STAR

A GBAC STAR Trusted Advisor, whether it's at a corporate, manufacturer, distributor, service provider or individual level, has been given the education, not only in infectious disease awareness, but a key background in GBAC STAR™ and how it moves the needle to be better focused on health, wellness and resilience. GBAC Trusted Advisor awareness course, launched a few weeks ago, is similar to GBAC STAR Trained Technician but more focused on how to lead others through the 20 elements.

Susan Loubster, Director of Training, Frontline Healthcare Workers Safety Foundation, Dallas, completed her Trusted Advisor training in November and is looking forward to assisting others on their GBAC STAR journey. The Frontline Healthcare Workers Safety Foundation, founded in 1997,

is a group of dedicated professionals committed to providing sustainable bio-safety and bio-security training.

"Being a Trusted Advisor means I will be able to work with organizations to improve their wellness and infectious disease prevention programs. Cleaning for health has become critical, and there is not enough awareness about what needs to be done or how best to do this," Loubster said. "GBAC's mission is to establish and maintain cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention programs to minimize risks associated with infectious



agents. If places we trust are not using proper cleaning protocols and disinfection techniques, they are not breaking the chain of infection. This makes our facilities less safe and, by extension, our communities more exposed. Every business should work to ensure every customer stays safe as possible. GBAC Star Accreditation can help with this protection."

When organizations strategize their environmental and social responsibilities and governance measures, many companies, facilities and organizations look at GBAC STAR as a way to demonstrate that they are developing programs to support their employees, customers and their communities. GBAC Trusted Advisors demonstrate a higher level of training and competency with infectious

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John Mongello
SVP Building Services, Durst Organization for One World Trade Center

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Where Do We Stand

GBAC STAR Facility Reaccreditation

GBAC STAR Facility Reaccreditation is an annual process that builds on an initial accreditation, to ensure facilities continue to evolve, improve and advance with the performance-based GBAC STAR program elements. More than 4,000 facilities make up the GBAC STAR Family and many are in the process of reaccreditation, while others are working toward accreditation.

GBAC STAR Facility

As of December 15, 2022

90.0% of facilities committed to reaccreditation

1,735 facilities reaccredited

To learn more about this process, contact GBAC Sales at <https://gbac.issa.com/contact>.



disease prevention programs, making them effective partners for many facilities and providers.

“The mission of GBAC is noble, and whatever we can do to minimize the spread of infectious diseases is worthwhile. GBAC Trusted Advisors demonstrate a higher level of training and competency with infectious disease prevention programs. This makes them useful partners,” Loubster said. “I cannot think of a single facility that would not benefit from becoming GBAC Star Accredited, and as a Trusted Advisor, you can make the process less overwhelming. You remove a stumbling block.”

Right now, GBAC Trusted Advisor is at the individual level, but GBAC is examining the criteria for a company to be awarded the certification of a GBAC STAR Trusted Corporate Partner. If you are interested in learning more about this program, contact your Sales Advisor.

“An accreditation process can be overwhelming. Having a GBAC Trusted Advisor assisting you makes the process much easier. You can benefit from their knowledge, experience and expertise. Working with a Trusted Advisor is like having a partner throughout the process,” Loubster said. “Your TA’s understanding of the accreditation process, as well as their understanding of infectious disease risks and mitigation strategies, adds insight and depth to the protocols and procedures you develop and implement.” ★

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Pair with our hypochlorous acid-based disinfectant to stop the spread of germs and viruses on high-touch surfaces and in the air for healthy, efficient, and effective disinfection.

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- ▶ 75% reduction in labor time*.
- ▶ 73% reduction in chemistry cost*.

*vs. spray & wipe method



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

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Job Training Versus Workforce Development

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that seasonal influenza activity is high across the country but appears to be declining in some areas. The most frequently reported virus is influenza A(H3N2). During Week 49, 80% of the influenza cases were A(H3N2) and 20% were A(H1N1).

So far this season, the CDC estimates at least 15 million illnesses, 150,000 hospitalizations and 9,300 deaths from flu. The majority of influenza viruses tested are in the same genetic subclade as and antigenically similar to the influenza viruses included in this season's influenza vaccine. All viruses collected and evaluated this season have been susceptible to the influenza antivirals oseltamivir, peramivir, zanamivir and baloxavir.

An annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect against flu. Vaccination helps prevent infection and can prevent serious outcomes in people who get vaccinated but still get sick with flu.

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New Virus Discovered in Swiss Ticks

The Alongshan virus was discovered in China only five years ago, but the University of Zurich reports that the novel virus is now showing up in Swiss ticks. Researchers believe it appears to be at least as widespread as the tickborne encephalitis virus and causes similar symptoms. The

team is working on a diagnostic test to assess the epidemiological situation. For more information, visit <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/12/221207104213.htm>.

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ISSA Strategic Items for 2023

Meet the 2023 ISSA Board of Directors and hear from President Matt Vonachen as he shares six ISSA priorities for this year.

- Rethink Clean
- ISSA 100-Year Anniversary
- CIMS
- GBAC
- OSHA grant of \$160,000
- ISSA Advocacy Summit in Washington D.C.

To hear more, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjyV1UM8d3k>

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Preventing Excessive Weight Loss During COVID-19

Devastating results can occur by losing too much weight when infected with COVID-19. Researchers at the Karolinska Institutet, Solna, Sweden, have discovered that SARS-CoV-2 infection contributes to blood vessel formation in fat tissues. This accelerates the body's thermogenic metabolism, which can result in significant weight loss. Deterring this process by using an existing drug curbed weight loss in mice and hamsters infected with the virus. For more information, visit <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/12/221208114831.htm>. ★

Looking Ahead

GBAC STAR Accreditation Workshop Coming Soon

If you are working on your documentation for accreditation or reaccreditation, attending the free GBAC STAR™ Accreditation Workshop is a great investment. This virtual workshop is open to the first 100 registrants, so you're encouraged to sign up early.

This two-day digital briefing reviews the accreditation process and takes a deep dive into the 20 program elements required for accreditation. It is interactive with GBAC staff at the ready to answer your questions. The goal is to prepare you for the task of gathering documents for accreditation. Come with your materials and ready to work through the elements. To learn more about or register for this free GBAC STAR Accreditation Workshop, visit <https://gbac.issa.com>. ★



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