

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**STERILE SURGICAL SYSTEMS RECEIVES INDUSTRY ACCREDITATION**  
**National Inspection assures customers that highest quality and safety standards are met**

TUMWATER, WASHINGTON—Sterile Surgical Systems, the leading provider in the Pacific Northwest of healthcare linen and reusable surgical packs, has received accreditation—the industry’s highest rating on quality and safety—from the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC).

HLAC is a non-profit organization that inspects and accredits laundries processing healthcare textiles for hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare facilities.

HLAC’s mission is to publish high standards for processing healthcare textiles in laundries, and to provide an accreditation process that recognizes those laundries that meet these high standards. The decision to become accredited is completely voluntary.

“Becoming accredited makes us a better company. And it gives our customers peace of mind to know their supplier is meeting the highest standards in processing healthcare textiles,” says Gregory Gicewicz, president of Sterile Surgical Systems. “Our customers are under intense pressure to prevent healthcare-associated infections, or HAIs. Hygienically clean linen is a key part of preventing HAIs and now our customers have an additional level of assurance that their linen is being processed according to the highest standards and arriving at their facility hygienically clean.

“The customers that we serve—predominately acute-care hospitals and medical facilities along the I-5 Corridor from Bellingham, Washington to Portland, Oregon—are used to dealing with agencies, vendors and people who have accreditation,” Gicewicz says. “It’s the right thing to do if you are in the business of processing and providing clean healthcare textiles.”

The primary benefit of healthcare laundry accreditation is that an independent third party has inspected your laundry processing facility and found that it meets or exceeds the highest standards for processing healthcare textiles. A laundry cannot inspect and accredit itself, and its customers generally do not have the time or expertise to do so.

The HLAC accreditation process was developed with several industry groups, including:

- American Society for Healthcare Environmental Services (ASHES)
- American Reusable Textiles Association (ARTA)
- Association for Linen Management (ALM)
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
- International Association for Healthcare Textile Management (IAHTM)
- Textile Rental Services Association of America (TRSA)

For more information on Sterile Surgical Systems, go to [www.sterilesurgicalsystems.com](http://www.sterilesurgicalsystems.com). For more information about HLAC, go to [www.hlacnet.org](http://www.hlacnet.org).

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