



## The 20 GBAC STAR™ Program Elements

### GBAC STAR™ Accreditation Program on Cleaning, Disinfection, and Infectious Disease Prevention for Facilities (GBAC STAR™ Program)

The GBAC STAR™ Program will enable facilities to:

- a) *Establish and maintain a cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention program to control and/or minimize risk associated with infectious agents such as SARS-CoV-2 (responsible for COVID-19 disease) for employees, customers, clients, visitors, the community, and the environment*
- b) *Provide assurance and establish confidence that proper cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention work practices are in place and implemented*
- c) *Establish a framework for communication and raising awareness of best practices as they relate to cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention.*

#### Scope

*The GBAC STAR™ Accreditation Program **on Cleaning, Disinfection, and Infectious Disease Prevention for Facilities (GBAC STAR™ Program)** establishes requirements to assist facilities in their cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention work practices to control risks associated with infectious agents.*

*This **GBAC STAR™ Program** is performance-based and sets out requirements for and places responsibility for facilities to demonstrate that appropriate cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention work practices, protocols, procedures, and systems have been established and implemented.*

*The **GBAC STAR™ Program** is designed such that any size facility or organization can use it and it is considered scalable.*

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***The following 20 program elements will each have specific performance and guidance criteria provided. Two examples are provided on the last page of this document.***

#### **1. Organizational roles, responsibilities, and authorities**

Roles and responsibilities regarding the facilities GBAC STAR™ Program shall be identified, documented, and communicated. A list of the roles and their responsibilities within the facility about the GBAC STAR™ Program will need to be provided to the GBAC STAR™ review team.

#### **2. Facility Commitment Statement**

A GBAC STAR™ Program commitment statement shall be developed, signed by senior leadership, and communicated to interested stakeholders. A copy shall be provided to the GBAC STAR™ review team.

#### **3. Sustainability and Continuous Improvement**

As the facility develops its GBAC STAR™ Program, elements of sustainability and continuous improvement shall be part of its program philosophy.



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### **4. *Conformity and Compliance***

The facility shall ensure that all relevant requirements are identified and complied with that are associated with cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention programs. The list shall be shared with the GBAC STAR™ review team. It is recognized that this is a living document.

### **5. *Goals, objectives and targets***

The facility's goals, objectives and targets shall be shared with the GBAC STAR™ review team. These are usually based on results from the facilities initial and ongoing risk assessments, audits, customer and employee feedback.

### **6. *Program Controls and Monitoring***

The facility shall assess and establish program control methods to ensure that the GBAC STAR™ Program elements are being met.

### **7. *Risk Assessment and Risk Mitigation Strategies***

The facility needs to establish and implement methods for ongoing risk assessment and ensure that when risks are identified, control measures are designed and implemented to eliminate or mitigate risks to an acceptable level.

### **8. *Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)***

Most facilities have standard operating procedures for cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention. The facility shall provide copies of its SOPs to the GBAC STAR™ review team or other accredited audit groups.

Note: GBAC will provide a variety of different industry templates, developed with industry experts that can be used by the facility to develop its own SOPs and to assess the GBAC STAR™ review team's expectations. The list of templates is continuously growing!

### **9. *Tools and equipment***

Technology, tools and solutions are changing constantly. Review and consideration of different tools and equipment shall be completed periodically. The facility shall provide a list of equipment and tools currently being used.

### **10. *Cleaning and disinfection chemicals***

Cleaning and disinfectant chemicals shall be appropriate for the area and objects being treated, the environment surrounding the area, and the infectious agent in question based on their risk assessment. The facility shall provide a list of cleaning and disinfection chemicals being used and what they are using them for.

### **11. *Inventory control and management***

The facility shall share with the GBAC STAR™ review team their inventory control and management plan for supplies, tools, and equipment.

### **12. *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)***

The facility shall share their PPE requirements for their cleaning and disinfection activities with the GBAC STAR™ review team.

### **13. *Waste management***

The facility shall make available their biomedical/biohazardous waste management plan to the GBAC STAR™ review team.

### **14. *Personnel training and competency***

The facility shall provide its training and education plan for cleaning and disinfection activities.



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### **15. Emergency preparedness and response**

A copy of the facility's emergency response plan shall be provided to the GBAC STAR™ review team.

### **16. Facility infection disease prevention practices**

The facility shall provide to the GBAC STAR™ review team a copy of its infectious disease prevention program. These practices may be incorporated within the facility's SOPs. If this is the case, the facility can provide a synopsis of its strategies.

### **17. Worker health program**

A copy of the facility's worker health program specific to infectious disease prevention shall be provided to the GBAC STAR™ review team.

### **18. Audits and Inspections**

A synopsis of the facility's audit program specific to the GBAC STAR™ Program shall be provided to the GBAC STAR™ review team.

### **19. Control of suppliers**

The facility shall provide a review of how the facility obtains products and services to the GBAC STAR™ review team. The facility should include if the services for cleaning and disinfection are in-house, contracted or a combination.

### **20. Documentation management**

A list of the facility's GBAC STAR™ program documents shall be maintained and provided to the GBAC STAR™ review team. (A list of suggested documents will be provided).



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Example of guidance from the official GBAC STAR™ Accreditation Handbook

**Facility Commitment Statement:** *The organization shall develop, sign and communicate the facility's commitment to the GBAC STAR™ Program elements. The document shall include provisions for minimizing and controlling risks associated with infectious disease outbreaks and potential exposures in relation to customers, clients, employees, the community and the environment.*

*Facilities shall provide assurance and establish confidence that proper cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention work practices and controls are in place, properly maintained, and continuously improved. The GBAC STAR™ Program Commitment statement shall be signed by senior management.*

Implementation Guidance:

This commitment statement should be an integral part of the facility in establishing an overall sense of direction and setting the principles for cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention within the facility. The commitment statement should set organizational objectives for cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention. It demonstrates that the facility and top management are committed to implementing and monitoring an effective GBAC Star™ Program. The commitment statement should complement other company commitment statements such as their Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) policies.

The GBAC STAR™ Program commitment statement shall be appropriate to the nature and scale of the facility and associated activities and commit to:

1. Protecting staff, clients, customers, contractors, visitors, community and environment
2. Training and awareness programs for employees
3. Awareness campaigns for customers, clients, employees and community.

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**Facility infection disease prevention practices** - *The facility shall implement infection control programs, procedures, and technologies that protect employees, clients, and customers.*

Implementation Guidance:

In order to minimize or eliminate the risk of spread and contamination of infectious diseases, the facility needs to address its in-house requirements (staff) as well as the needs of customers, clients and visitors. These will need to include engineering and administrative controls, as well as PPE.

Examples of engineering controls include, but not limited to:

- Handwash facilities
- Hand sanitization and disinfection wipe stations
- Automated cleaning and disinfection technologies (e.g., robotic floor cleaning and disinfection equipment)
- Touchless facilities/technologies, for example hands-free: entry/exit, service acquisition, waste disposal, hand sanitizer stations
- Surfaces, objects, and equipment designed for easy cleaning and long term antibacterial and antiviral properties
- HVAC systems (e.g., UVC, air filters)
- Physical barriers to prevent person to person contact, hands-free waste disposal etc.



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Examples for administrative controls include, but not limited to:

- Worker health program for staff (e.g., vaccination programs, fit for duty programs, temperature monitoring)
- Instructions and information on practices and procedures for customers, clients, and visitors
- Temperature monitoring for customers, clients, and visitors (e.g., handheld thermometer or temperature scanning program)
- Social distancing programs. (e.g., spacing of seating in a meeting, seating in theaters, line management)
- Labeling and signage
- Policies, rules, supervision/observation, schedules, and training.

The facility should regularly assess as part of its internal audit program and program continual improvement goals, practices and controls for appropriateness within their GBAC STAR™ Program.