

PART IV: CERTIFIED HYGIENIC TESTING





TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- 
- **Part IV Standards – Certified Hygienic Testing**
 - **Why Was Part IV Developed?**
 - **Process & Protocols**
 - **Transitioning to Part IV Certification**

BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY

New Part IV is consistent with these objectives.

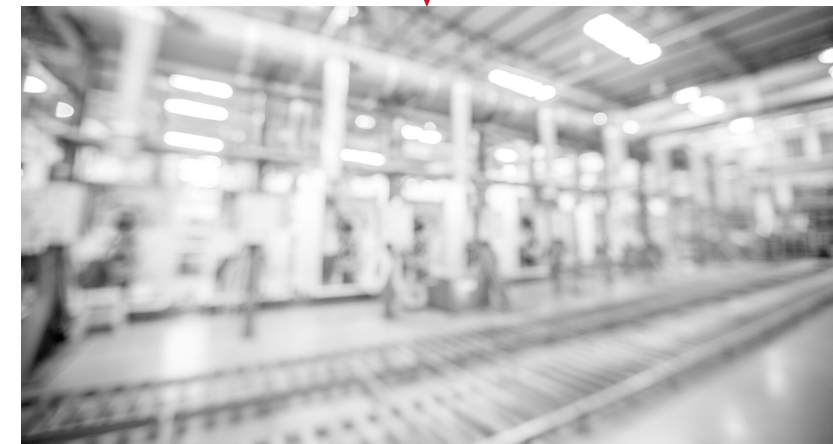
**Raises the bar for all
suppliers**



**Demonstrates facility is
promoting continuous
industry improvement**



**Improves overall
quality of laundries
for patient safety**





THE STANDARDS

- Part I: Basic Considerations
- Part II: Textile Processing Cycle
- Part III: Surgical Pack Room
- Part IV Testing and Validation of Process
- Part V Best Practices and Emerging Issues

HLAC STANDARDS 2023 EDITION

Emphasis on standards impacting hygienically clean linen

Emphasis on functional separation and clean/soil issues

Less emphasis on items that do not directly impact hygienically clean linen. i.e eyewash stations.

More flexibility for operators who employ different methods to obtain hygienically clean linen

Easier to read standards, less duplication, better referenced standards.

Certified Hygienic Testing (CHT) to validate your processes

ACCREDITATION & CERTIFICATION



**HLAC Accreditation- Process
Control- Current-Part I, II, III**



**Laundries now have the option to
obtain a separate certification –
Certified Hygienic Testing (CHT)**

DEVELOPMENT OF PART IV

**Certified Hygienic Testing is a complement of HLAC's
process-based Accreditation.**

Demand by many accredited
laundries for process
validation through testing
protocols

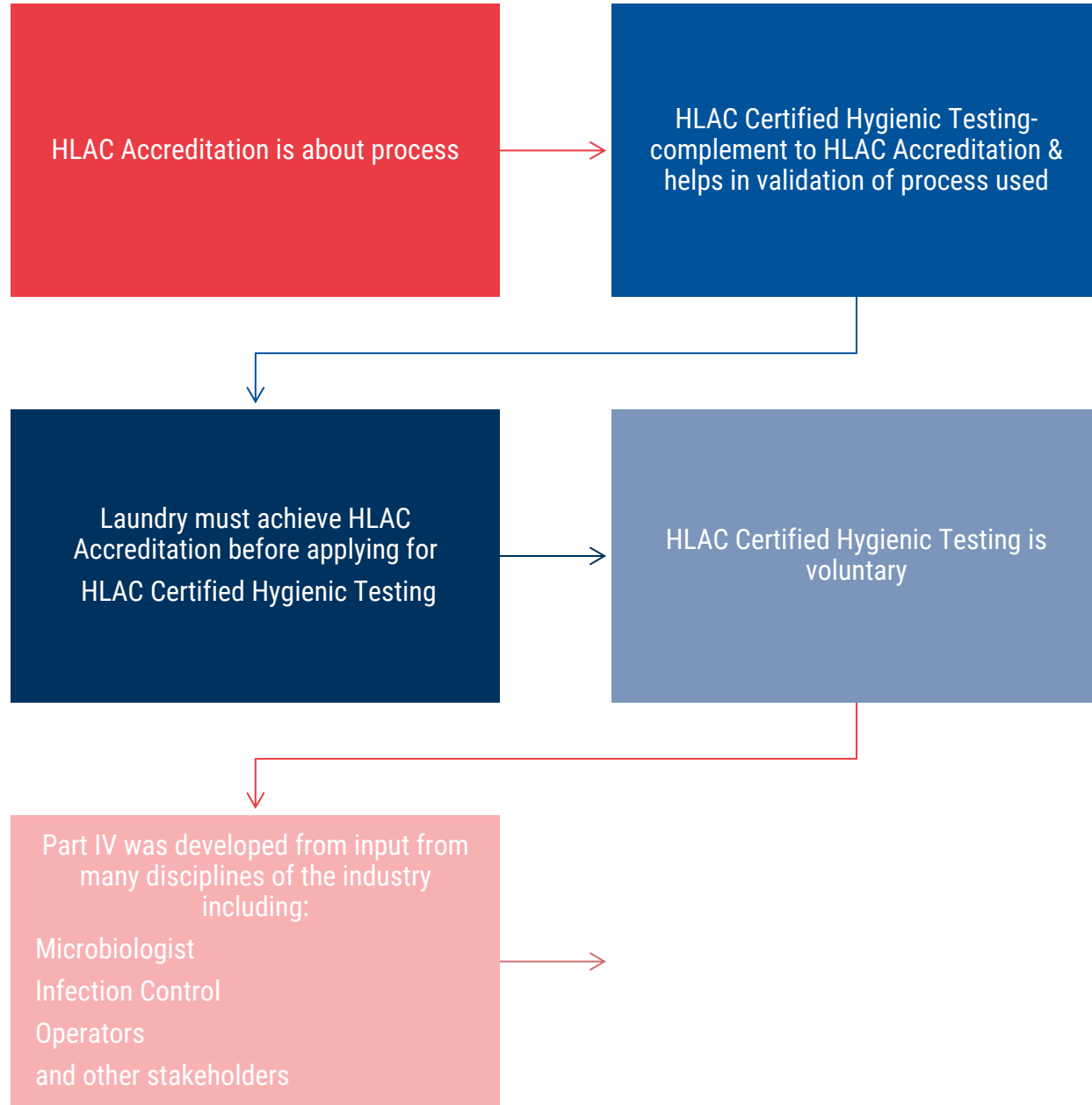


A strong process leads
to a strong outcome



Developed to provide
recognition of excellence by
laundries

PART IV WHY & HOW



HLAC ACCREDITATION PART I, II, III

Same as current HLAC Accreditation

Process Control Accreditation – Part I-III

No regular testing of linen required



HLAC CERTIFICATION PART IV

Separate Certification for Part IV Certified Hygienic Testing

Not required in order to receive HLAC Accreditation

Validates Parts I-III



INITIAL CERTIFICATION

Identify Accredited Lab

Microbiological Test: Quarterly Samples

Samples should be representative of high volume items shipped by laundry

Laundry must have policies & procedures regarding test sampling as well as remediation procedures for any failed samples



ONGOING MAINTENANCE

Conduct microbiological test once a quarter

Samples should be representative of high volume items shipped by laundry

We recommend that different was equipment be rotated as part of the testing protocol

All textile samples must pass or remediation must be documented



RECERTIFICATION & AUDIT

Certification renews every 3 years

Laundry will keep documentation for a review of 3-year records & audit reports

HLAC Inspector can request random sampling if necessary



KEY DOCUMENTATION

- **Proof & Documentation of accredited laboratory**
 - Decision of lab being used is that of laundry not HLAC
- **Quarterly reports of linen testing for a min. of two quarters is required for initial certification**
- **Documented Processes over testing**
- **Documented Process of Remediation process over testing deficiencies**
 - These are to be submitted to HLAC or Inspector for review
- **Laundry must keep documentation of lab reports and any remediation**
 - The lab does not need to send directly to HLAC
- **Reports used for other certifications/accreditations can be provided to HLAC for linen testing documentation**

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS



Currently accredited Laundries: can apply for Part IV certification as of July 1, 2023.

- Expire at the end of their current accreditation cycle
- Pricing will be prorated

Promotional price for all laundries who wish to obtain Part IV certification

- Apply by September 30, 2023
- Complete by December 20, 2023

Applications start July 1, 2023

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

We've placed a Quick Reference Guide in Part IV of the Standards to assist you through the process

Part IV - 7. Quick Reference

7.1 Table 2. Quick Certification Guide

STEPS	CRITERIA	RECOMMENDED APPROACH
Identify a HLAC recommended laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISO 17025 accredited EPA GLP compliant 	<p>Obtain laboratory protocols for sampling, sample shipment and forms.</p> <p>Incorporate the above as part of laundry facility SOP for microbiological QC</p>
Initial certification	<p>Microbiological test: repeat once per month for the first 3 months</p> <p>Report results to HLAC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All textiles samples tested must pass the test If the test fails, repeat process per column C If the test fails a third time, conduct a root cause analyses and adjust protocols as required Repeat test within two weeks of initial failed tests. 	<p>Identify two (2)- five (5) representative textiles to sample</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Submit per shipping protocol Include chain of custody forms
Ongoing maintenance	<p>Conduct microbiological test once a quarter</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All textiles samples tested must pass the test If the test fails, repeat process per column C If the test fails a third time, consult with HLAC and conduct a root cause analyses Repeat test If a specific item fails a test, HLAC may require that item to be included in subsequent quarterly tests until it is reasonably assured that there are no compliant issues. 	<p>Identify two (2)- five (5) representative textiles to sample</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Submit per shipping protocol Include chain of custody forms Ensure that textile types and washers used for laundering are rotated every quarter. Recommended: All textile types and washers are represented at least once annually for microbiological analyses.
Recertification	<p>HLAC will renew certification for partner laundry facilities once every three years.</p>	<p>Review three year records</p> <p>Review audit reports</p> <p>Request additional tests on specific textile samples if applicable as deemed by HLAC official</p>



Questions?