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## **Independence Visitor Center Has Achieved GBAC STAR™ Facility Accreditation**

**PHILADELPHIA, PA (September 14, 2020)** – The **Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC)** has achieved Global Biorisk Advisory Council® (GBAC) STAR™ accreditation, the gold standard for prepared facilities. Under the guidance of GBAC, a Division of ISSA, the worldwide cleaning industry association, the IVCC has implemented the most stringent protocols for cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention in its facility, the **Independence Visitor Center**.

As the cleaning industry's only outbreak prevention, response, and recovery accreditation, GBAC STAR™ helps organizations establish protocols and procedures, offers expert-led training, and assesses a facility's readiness for biorisk situations. The program verifies that the **Independence Visitor Center** implements best practices to prepare for, respond to, and recover from outbreaks and pandemics.

"GBAC STAR accreditation empowers facility owners and managers to assure workers, customers and key stakeholders that they have proven systems in place to maintain clean and healthy environments," said GBAC Executive Director Patricia Olinger. "By taking this important step to pursue GBAC STAR, the **Independence Visitor Center** has received third-party validation that it follows strict protocols for biorisk situations, thereby demonstrating its preparedness and commitment to operating safely."

To achieve GBAC STAR™ accreditation, the **Independence Visitor Center** was required to demonstrate compliance with the program's 20 core elements, which range from standard operating procedures and risk assessment strategies to personal protective equipment and emergency preparedness and response measures. Learn more about GBAC STAR accreditation at [www.gbac.org](http://www.gbac.org).

With these measures in place, **Independence Visitor Center** is **open daily, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**, to welcome visitors, offer information services, and provide access to local attractions, museums, and tours. Amenities located inside the Visitor Center, including **Independence Gift Shop**, the largest retail shop featuring Philadelphia-themed merchandise and locally made souvenirs, are also open daily.



### **About the Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC)**

The Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC) is a Pennsylvania nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, which operates in cooperation with the National Park Service, Visit Philadelphia, Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Philadelphia, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The IVCC manages the Independence Visitor Center, the official visitor center of the Philadelphia region and primary point of orientation for Independence National Historical Park; satellite visitor center locations; and the visitor-friendly public transit service, Philly PHLASH® Downtown Loop. [PHLvisitorcenter.com](http://PHLvisitorcenter.com)

### **About GBAC, a Division of ISSA**

Composed of international leaders in the field of microbial-pathogenic threat analysis, mitigation, response and recovery, the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC), a Division of ISSA, provides training, guidance, accreditation, certification, crisis management assistance and leadership to government, commercial and private entities looking to mitigate, quickly address and/or recover from biological threats and real-time crises. The organization's services include biorisk management program assessment and training, Forensic Restoration® response and remediation, the GBAC STAR™ facility accreditation program, training and certification of individuals and consulting for building owners and facility managers. For more information, visit [www.gbac.org](http://www.gbac.org).

### **About ISSA**

With more than 9,300 members—including distributors, manufacturers, manufacturer representatives, wholesalers, building service contractors, in-house service providers, residential cleaners and associated service members—ISSA is the world's leading trade association for the cleaning industry. The association is committed to changing the way the world views cleaning by providing its members with the business tools they need to promote cleaning as an investment in human health, the environment and an improved bottom line. Headquartered in Northbrook, Ill., USA, the association has regional offices in Mainz, Germany; Whitby, Canada; Parramatta, Australia; Seoul, South Korea; and Shanghai, China. For more information about ISSA, visit [www.issa.com](http://www.issa.com) or call 800-225-4772 (North America) or 847-982-0800.

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