



Vancouver Convention Centre Earns GBAC STAR™ Accreditation



VANCOUVER, BC. – (January 12, 2021) The [Vancouver Convention Centre](#) has further strengthened its commitment to the health and safety of its staff, clients, and guests by earning [GBAC STAR™ Facility Accreditation](#) from the Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), [a Division of ISSA](#), the worldwide cleaning industry association.

With this achievement by the Vancouver Convention Centre, all of BC Pavilion Corporation’s (PavCo) facilities have earned GBAC STAR™ accreditation. BC Place Stadium completed its [successful application](#) in September 2020.

GBAC STAR is an industry accreditation focused on ensuring a clean, safe, and healthy environment in public and commercial facilities of all sizes. The program outlines best practices, protocols, and procedures to control risk factors associated with infectious disease, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19. GBAC STAR accreditation means that venues’ cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention programs implement best practices to prepare for, respond to and recover from outbreaks and pandemics like COVID-19.

“Taking proactive measures that strengthen health and safety protocols and build confidence in BC’s tourism sector is a priority of our government,” said Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, and Sport. “British Columbia is a world-class destination and I’m pleased that PavCo and the Vancouver Convention Centre are pursuing health and safety accreditation at the highest level, as well as preparing to welcome large conferences and events to their facilities, when it is safe to do so.”

“PavCo and the Vancouver Convention Centre are proud to receive the GBAC STAR accreditation as part of our ongoing commitment to keeping the health, safety and wellbeing of our guests, clients and employees our highest priority,” said Ken Cretney, President and CEO of BC Pavilion Corporation. “Across each of our facilities, our teams have been hard at work to further enhance our comprehensive safety and cleaning measures, considering every step in our processes and operations. By earning the gold standard of the Global Biorisk Advisory Council, both the Vancouver Convention Centre and BC Place have committed to providing the highest levels of environmental health and safety for events and activities that contribute to the social fabric and economic restart of our industry in British Columbia and Canada.”

To achieve GBAC STAR™ accreditation, facilities must follow specific performance and guidance criteria to show compliance with the program’s 20 elements, which range from standard operating procedures and risk assessment to personal protective equipment (PPE) and emergency preparedness and response measures. The program is ideal for facilities of all sizes including, but not limited to offices, restaurants, hotels, airports, stadiums, and other public venues.



“GBAC STAR™ is the gold standard of safe facilities, providing third-party validation that ensures facilities implement strict protocols for biorisk situations,” said GBAC executive director Patricia Olinger. “Accreditation empowers facility owners and managers to assure workers, customers, and key stakeholders that they have proven systems in place to deliver clean and healthy environments that are safe for business.”

Apply for GBAC STAR facility accreditation today at gbac.org/star. See which facilities are accredited or are working towards accreditation via the [GBAC STAR Facility Directory](#).

About Vancouver Convention Centre

Located on Vancouver’s downtown waterfront with a dramatic mountain backdrop, the world’s first double LEED® Platinum certified convention centre offers one of the most beautiful settings in the world. The award-winning [Vancouver Convention Centre](#) features two connected buildings with a combined total of 466,500 ft² of flexible meeting, exhibition, ballroom and plenary space. The facility is committed to environmental sustainability as well as unparalleled service, technology offerings and culinary excellence. The Convention Centre is a part of BC Pavilion Corporation (PavCo), a Provincial Crown Corporation of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.

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.

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 or call (800) 225-4772 (North America) or (847) 982-0800. For information on ISSA’s Canadian division, ISSA Canada, visit <http://www.issa-canada.com> or call (866) 864-8273 or (905) 665-8001.



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MediaEdge is a proud reseller of the GBAC STAR and GBAC fundamentals online course. Please see the program details and links below and remember to use the promo codes when registering as they provide discounts.

1. Commercial facility owners looking for GBAC STAR accreditation can follow the link [here](#) and use the promo code **"MediaEdgeGS"**
2. ISSA has also released a new GBAC fundamentals online course specifically designed for cleaning workers on the frontlines of the coronavirus fight. Please click [here](#) to register and receive a discount off normal prices.

For additional program details and information, please email chuckn@mediaedge.ca or contact him at (416) 803-4653.