



Central Ohio Transit Authority and More Facilities Get Green Light from GBAC STAR™ for Cleaning and Disinfecting

NORTHBROOK, Ill.—March 11, 2021—The [Global Biorisk Advisory Council](#)™ (GBAC), a Division of ISSA, today announced that the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) has achieved GBAC STAR™ Facility Accreditation for its transit centers and administrative offices. Other facilities recognized this week include Richmond International Airport in Richmond, Va.; Colorado Convention Center in Denver; and various hotels around the world.

“GBAC STAR is the cleaning industry’s only outbreak prevention, response, and recovery accreditation for facilities, and is designed to support them at every step in the journey,” said GBAC Executive Director Patricia Olinger. “Organizations that commit to the program send a clear message to their employees, customers, and visitors that they are advocates for a cleaner world.”

The award-winning COTA has roots dating back to 1863 when it was known as the Columbus Street Railroad Company. Today, it employs more than 1,200 workers and serves more than 1.2 million residents in Greater Columbus and Central Ohio. Each year, COTA provides over 19 million passenger trips across 42 routes.

Recently, COTA partnered with Columbus City Schools, Ohio’s largest school district with nearly 50,000 students, to help students safely return to in-person learning. This makes it more important than ever to have the proper cleaning, disinfecting, and infection prevention protocols in place at six transit facilities and its administrative offices in Columbus, Ohio.

“We are proud to be one of only two destinations in the world that can offer a GBAC accredited public transit system,” said Brian Ross, President and CEO of Experience Columbus. “COTA is an essential piece of the visitor experience in Columbus, and we are glad to know travelers can feel an added level of comfort now that the organization has received its GBAC STAR accreditation. COTA has been a leader in the community and the industry in regards to COVID-19 cleaning practices, and this third-party validation of their efforts is further proof of that.”

This week’s newly accredited facilities include:

Airport

- Phoenix Goodyear Airport in Goodyear, Az.
- Richmond International Airport in Richmond, Va.

Office/Commercial Offices

- 10 Hudson Yards in New York
- 30 Hudson Yards in New York
- 35 Hudson Yards in New York



Convention Centers

- Colorado Convention Center/ASM Global in Denver

Hotels

- Hyatt Place Atlanta Duluth Johns Creek in Duluth, Ga.
- Hyatt Place San Juan/Bayamón in Bayamón, Puerto Rico
- Hyatt Place Sanya City Center in Sanya Hainan, China
- Hyatt Place Chicago/Schaumburg in Schaumburg, Ill.
- Hyatt Place State College in State College, Pa.
- Hyatt Regency DFW in Dallas
- Hyatt Regency Seragaki Island in Kunigami-gun, Japan
- The Talbott Hotel in Chicago

Transportation Provider/Centers

- COTA Administrative Offices in Columbus, Ohio
- COTA Easton Transit Center in Columbus, Ohio
- COTA Linden Transit Center in Columbus, Ohio
- COTA Near East Transit Center in Columbus, Ohio
- COTA Northland Transit Center in Columbus, Ohio
- COTA Spring Street Terminal in Columbus, Ohio
- COTA South Terminal in Columbus, Ohio

“It’s imperative that facilities do their part in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses,” said ISSA Executive Director John Barrett. “GBAC STAR accreditation helps organizations establish a comprehensive system of cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention for their staff and building.”

Learn more and apply for GBAC STAR™ facility accreditation at gbac.org/star.

To view the full list of facilities that have achieved accreditation or are working towards this designation, visit the GBAC STAR Facility Directory at gbac.org/directory.

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.

About MediaEdge Communications

For more than 25 years, MediaEdge has been at the forefront of communication solutions for organizations within a variety of business sectors. MediaEdge is a leading provider of non-dues revenues for associations offering exceptional no-cost member benefits through a number of innovative products and services. Find out more by visiting www.mediaedge.ca.

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](#).
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.