



NEWS RELEASE

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LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND ACHIEVES ISO 9001 CERTIFICATION

Shreveport, LA - Louisiana Association for the Blind (LAB) has announced it is now certified as an ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management Systems compliant organization. The certification is accredited by Management Certification of North America.

“As a provider of products and services to federal and state agencies, as well as to individuals with vision impairment, it is our responsibility to set and achieve the highest standards possible,” said LAB president and CEO Shelly Taylor. “ISO 9001 certification is credible evidence of our continuous commitment to efficiency, effectiveness, and quality in aspect of our organization.”

ISO 9000 is a family of standards related to quality management systems and designed to help organizations ensure that they meet the needs of customers, shareholders and employees. The certification of compliance with ISO 9001:2008 recognizes that LAB’s policies, practices and procedures ensure consistent quality in the services and work product provided to customers.

“Congratulations to Louisiana Association for the Blind on this important achievement,” said Kevin Lynch, President and CEO of National Industries for the Blind (NIB). “This certification clearly demonstrates the agency’s commitment to quality and efficiency, making them an attractive business partner and opening up the doors for more opportunities to employ Louisianans who are blind and visually impaired.”

To become certified as ISO 9001:2008 compliant, LAB underwent a six month evaluation process. The procedure included developing formal quality management system (QMS), management systems review, employee training, process documentation, establishing process metrics, and a pre-audit initial assessment – all of which are required to be in compliance with the ISO 9001:2008 standard. A certificate of registration was issued to LAB’s Paper Room Division/Headquarters, Abrasives Division and Copy Paper Division in December 2012.

About Louisiana Association for the Blind (LAB)

LAB is a private, non-profit community service organization that provides employment, rehabilitation, vocational training, and recreational activities to individuals with vision impairment. Established in 1927, LAB has three manufacturing facilities in Shreveport that produce writing tablets, index cards, copy paper, anti-slip traction material, and abrasive cloth. A fourth manufacturing facility, Ability Printing, produces a wide variety of printed materials for a broad base of customers. LAB also includes the Low Vision Rehabilitation Center and two military service stores, located at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City and Fort Polk Army Base in Leesville. LAB is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the blind through training, services, and employment.

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