

Brazil doping lab gets Olympic all clear: WADA

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A view of the Brazilian Doping Control Laboratory (BDCL) of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, in Rio, Brazil, on May 8, 2015

Brazil's drug-testing laboratory has had its status as an Olympic-standard facility restored, two years after being stripped of the elite ranking, the World Anti-Doping Agency said Wednesday.

WADA chief Craig Reddie told reporters the global doping watchdog

was satisfied that the Rio laboratory was now up to required standards as it prepared for the 2016 Olympics.

"My people at the WADA believe that they (the laboratory experts) are capable of doing the job," Reddie said in Montreal.

"I've seen the opening stages when I was there, it's been developed. Brazil works properly, that's a real plus," he added.

WADA revoked the laboratory's credentials two years ago after identifying failures to meet international standards, forcing the Brazilians to undertake far-reaching remedial work.

"The most important issue has been the accreditation of the laboratory in Rio. I mean it is absolutely essential to proper conduct of an Olympic Games," Reddie said in concluding a "very successful" two days of meetings.

WADA found that Rio now has the capacity to undertake at least 3,000 tests at next year's Games, the first ever to be held in South America.

Some 5,000 tests were carried out at the 2012 London Games.

Brazilian Minister of Sport George Hilton, present at the meeting, welcomed Wednesday's decision.

"The recovery of accreditation is the result of a considerable federal effort on the part of the federal government and comprises part of our Olympic and Paralympic preparations," Hilton said.

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