

## **NORWALK INFORMATION:**

### **AHP Successful Against Norwalk Outbreak on Cruise Ships**

The cruise industry is faced with various infectious disease issues. Ships dock at various ports, and many of the passengers are elderly and therefore more susceptible to pathogens.

One particular pathogen of concern is the Norwalk virus. Norwalk is a non-enveloped virus that has a high resistance to chemical germicides.

The virus also is transmitted by various routes such as contact, airborne, and common sources such as food and water. Given the highly contagious nature of this pathogen and the restricted space a cruise ship provides illness can overwhelm a ship with devastating speed. Health Canada has always recommended the use of a 1:10 bleach solution to decontaminate surfaces suspected of having Norwalk. This has been a troublesome approach dealing with the virus on cruise ships for several reasons, including material compatibility and health and safety. In August Health Canada approved the use of AHP as an alternative for the decontamination of surfaces in a Norwalk virus outbreak. This allowed the ship's staff to decontaminate surfaces safely that would have been otherwise damaged by using a bleach solution.

AHP was used to clean and disinfect every inch of the ship's 735 linear feet, including the deck and all 950 rooms. It was successful in helping prevent any further cases of this virus. This is another example of the strength of AHP as an alternative to bleach.