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## The Application of Pro-biotic cleaning systems for Cruise Lines

In January, we presented an article called “The future of onboard disinfection .... Are bacteria the enemy?” where we the reviewed looked at Pro-Biotic Cleaning and discovered it could be very effective within the cruise industry, but we were left with questions and cost and easy of use with the cruise ship environment. In this article we will look at the application of pro-biotic cleaning in a way that might provide some insight to operators with regards to the its use in their situation.



Previously we looked at the commonality of Hospitals and Cruise ships when dealing with the base components, where there are many similar problems that have to be managed to ensure a positive outcome for the patient or the passenger. Both have a somewhat captured audience, significant movement between core operational areas and the outside while they must also supply a wide range of services and general amenities for that very compressed audience.

Cruise lines and other hospitality services operators have, as hospitals have, realized that everyone carries bacteria, viruses, various pathogens and often including contagions like MRSA or gastric triggers.

Current systems for regular cleaning are apparently not fully addressing this constant potential for exposure and will always present the risk of regular outbreaks of resistant bacteria infections and gastric related events. The extreme mechanisms used to deal with these outbreaks and

events are currently very costly and very harsh on materials, operating schedules, staff and budgets.

Current daily, weekly and emergency cleaning systems have often been based on biocides and disinfectants which are very effective but only for only a very short period (a little as minutes in certain cases) and may not address the significant issue of biofilm which creates a surface layer that protects pathogens from even the harshest bleaches. It turns out that when disinfectants kill most or all bacteria on a surface, it just clears away all the competition for the first bad bug that lands on the surface as soon as it is dried – plus all the killed bacteria becomes a bonus food supply for them as well. So, surprisingly, the facts show that the answer to cleaner, safer environments is not less bacteria – but more of the good kind that protect us from the bad.

We mentioned a company in Belgium and North America that was identified as a market leader in this area. Chrisal is rapidly growing worldwide based on a range of Probiotic Cleaning products that have been demonstrated as very effective at lowering levels of pathogens and related outbreaks in hospitals as well as many other areas using these products based on the principles of effective “exclusion” rather than biocides. We have gone back to them for information more specific to the cruise and hospitality industry.

The Chrisal pro-biotic cleaners use proprietary, stabilized organic probiotics as the core breakthrough in cleaning, along with very mild surfactants, completely non-toxic and eco-friendly agents to do the following .

1. Cleans all surfaces actually down to the microscopic level for the first time,
2. The probiotics use Enzymes to breakdown and consume the biofilm which otherwise protects harmful bacteria and viruses
3. Coats the surface with friendly, beneficial bacteria which prevent the regrowth of pathogens, continue to clean and protect for up to three days at a time – and as a bonus reduces odours.

So this seems to be a potential means to far better protect passengers and staff, but is it really practical – it is used in hospitals so the solution may be effective but it is efficient. If it cannot be applied within the time and cost critical environment of the cruise ship we are back to the start in our search for a way to help prevent the spread of the pathogens.

After reviewing products listings, we discovered there is also large scale agricultural applications and that Chrisal is used to designing cleaning systems for both highly specialized markets, large scale operations and very cost / time sensitive businesses. The products can be supplied in 1,000 litre container of concentrate and are effective at very low dilution ratios. They have designed solutions for daily, weekly and emergency cleaning protocols which are typical of an onboard situation and where any unused or spilled products can be safely washed down any drain.

We approached Mr. Lino G. Morris, the President of Chrisal Ltd, the North American Manufacturer of Chrisal, and asked him how he would look at the process of supporting a cruise line. We stressed the need for reliable delivery, simple and safe onboard distribution and handling all with maximum protection against the gastric and other breakouts that are of major concern to the industry. We have summarized, Mr. Morris's response to our query as follows..

“Chrisal is establishing a worldwide base of distributors and is very experienced with shipping it's products globally. The products are incredibly easy to use and Chrisal Ltd has manufacturing and distribution facilities in both the eastern and western United States as well as in the South, making for easy supply to either seaboard. We also have facilities in a number of other countries, with the newest now being opened in Dubai – and between our production plant here and the one in Belgium covering Europe, I am confident that we can meet the complex logistical demands of the cruise industry.

The core products could be supplied on pallets in 1,000 litre containers which has a useful life of 2 years if stored corrected between 5 deg C and 50 deg C. Freezing and prolonged direct sunlight should be avoided. A number of other sizes are also available. The unique Allergy Free product is supplied in pallet loads of 400ml spray cans or it can be supplied in bulk.

When diluted, the products are not negatively affected by the use of fluoridated or chlorinated water at normal potable levels, nor is it affected by the use of RO water provided it is properly PH balanced.

The products can be centrally stored or concentrated lots can be immediately distributed to various cleaning staff centres. Optionally, because the diluted product remains effective for up to 7 days, the diluted form can be distributed with small lots of concentrate for emergency. It

should be noted that after 7 days, by pouring in drains, they provide a significant benefit to drains and pipe systems by reducing biofilm, biomats and odors in the piping – and they are good for septic storage systems as well.

The core products that would be supplied for everyday cleaning are ...

The PIP Floor Cleaner is best used at a 50:1 water to concentrate for the start of cruise cleaning and then at 100:1 for daily cleaning. For major contaminations, where disinfectants/bleaches are used, immediately after, treat again with a 50:1 ratio (one time only) to re-establish the healthy micro-flora environment.

For most interior applications, the PIP Universal Cleaner is best. Again use it at a 50:1 for the start of cruise cleaning and then at 100:1 for daily cleaning with the same rule of thumb for major contaminations. Only 20ml of concentrate provides 2 litres of mixed solution which should do about 15 cloths. If using a measured squirt delivery, then, after the first week, there is no need to double up the dose for spray bottles to ensure that handrails, elevator buttons, bars and tables, etc, receive a little bit extra as even though they are easily and repeated exposed to a variety of potentially dangerous germs and viruses, PIP has proven to protect against even blood and other types of spills. Overdosing with PIP products does not generally have any negative effects - just lots more healthy bacteria preventing the growth of the pathogens,

The other significant area is of course bathrooms and toilets. For ease of use, the system was designed to be the same – using the PIP Sanitary Cleaner at 50:1 for the start of cruise cleaning and then at 100:1 for daily cleaning with the same rule of thumb for major contaminations. If the bathroom or toilet has a bad odour of any sort, but appears clean, use the double dose spray bottle approach one time which will help to break down any biofilm and reduce the bacteria producing the smell.

As you finish cleaning a cabin, you can give the bed and soft furnishing a spray with Allergy Free. A single bottle of Allergy Free should be enough for 60-70 uses.”

We went back to Mr. Morris on this final point as the Allergy Free Spray is probably the most expensive component of a system designed to be cost effective. His response was...

“We now have an excellent pricing solution for shipboard use. We appreciate that cost is a major consideration, but allergies of all sorts are increasingly common. With a significant portion of the population now suffering from a range of issues from a simple runny nose and itchy eyes to Asthma, Psoriasis, Rosacea and Eczema, our Probiotic solutions including Allergy Free has been demonstrated to significantly reduce the base level allergen load and dramatically improve the overall condition of sufferers. If your passengers (not to mention your crew) feel better, they will do more, spend more and be more positive about their cruise experience.

In addition, the badge labelled Allergy Free products could be sold with Cruise Line labels to increase onboard revenues and act as a marketing tool when passengers return home. When combined with the range to customize cruise line solutions soon to be released, we expect to become an import partner in enhancing the onboard experience for both passengers and staff.”

So again - what does this mean.. The possibility of surfaces that are resistant to pathogens for days instead of minutes? Reduced incidents of contagious infections and gastric conditions? Less crew exposure to harsh chemical cleaners and reduced environmental concerns? Almost no downtime for ships or sections of ships even after an outbreak? Improved passenger and crew morale based on reduced allergies and skin conditions resulting in a better cruise experience and more onboard revenues?

It seems that all of these proven solutions are practical and that the products and procedures are ready for the industry to build repeatable quality procedures around these pro-biotic solutions.

These are interesting possibilities and given the likely interest in pro-biotic cleaning solutions within the cruising and hospitality industries, PT will keep an eye on developments.



Posted by Progress International Media at 6:16 AM