



Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

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Clark Seif Clark is pleased to bring environmental, health & safety and information about building sciences to thousands of professionals each month. We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

California Home Rental Company Fined for Lead Violations

This month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released information about a home rental company that was fined for lead violations in Fresno, California. The firm is required to pay \$75,000 in penalties and costs to replace windows in some of the company's properties that have lead contamination. The firm has one year to complete the project and must report to the EPA about its progress every three months.



Lead Paint

The fines resulted after EPA inspectors discovered the firm failed to provide information to tenants about prior lead hazards before leasing certain units. In addition, the rental company did not have tenants sign forms showing that they received disclosures about lead. These failures resulted in violations of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act.

"Nearly one million children in America today have dangerous levels of lead in their blood, and old household paint is the primary source," said Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator of EPA's Pacific Southwest region. "It is crucial for landlords to provide information about lead hazards, so that tenants can protect their families from lead poisoning."

In This Issue

[California Home Rental Company Fined for Lead Violations](#)

[Norovirus Outbreaks Impact Both Human Health and Businesses](#)



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One of the premier environmental testing companies in California and across the Southwest that helps companies conform with current lead regulations is Clark Seif Clark. "In addition to helping companies comply with the Toxic Substances Act, we have been instrumental in helping firms fulfill the EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule," reported Derrick Denis, V.P. Indoor Environmental Quality at CSC. "The existing regulations are meant to protect tenants and children from lead poisoning. Fast and accurate testing is available to help avoid people unnecessary exposure to lead and prevent companies from receiving expensive fines and damaging public relations."

To learn more about how Clark Seif Clark can help with lead, indoor air quality (IAQ), and health and safety projects, please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

Norovirus Outbreaks Impact Both Human Health and Businesses

An article published this year in *USA Today* described a double outbreak of the norovirus on a single cruise ship providing vacation trips that departed from San Francisco to Alaska. Both outbreaks occurred on the 2,000 passenger luxury cruise ship in May. On the first voyage over 140 passengers and crew became ill with norovirus symptoms. The second cruise, which departed 10 days later, had approximated the same number of people developing the illness.

The cruise line responded with additional sanitation and health staff to help bring the outbreak under control and to prevent additional outbreaks. Due to cases like these, that have become all too common on cruise ships, some in the industry now refer to the norovirus as the cruise ship virus.

Noroviruses can cause severe gastrointestinal illness in infected people. According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), "People get a norovirus infection directly from an ill individual who did not wash his hands adequately, or indirectly from food or water contaminated by the stool or vomit from an infected person, or from airborne particles produced by those vomiting."

In the United States, the CDC estimates that more than 21 million cases of acute gastroenteritis are due to norovirus

infections each year. The avoidable impact to human health and the financial costs to industry are high. Noroviruses are contagious; fortunately there are preventive measures that can be implemented to reduce the risk or the extent of an outbreak.

CSC has sponsored an educational video about the risks associated with the norovirus that can be seen below:



Norovirus

To learn more about how Clark Seif Clark can help to reduce the incidence of and manage the response to environmental issues such as infectious pathogens, indoor air quality (IAQ), industrial hygiene, and health and safety projects, please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

About Clark Seif Clark: CSC was established in 1989 to help clients in both the public and private sectors address environmental issues. CSC is a leading provider of these services with multiple offices along the western seaboard and southwest. The company believes in science-based protocols and has a strong background in engineering making them the preferred environmental consultants to healthcare facilities, architects, schools, builders, contractors, developers and real estate professionals.