



Update on Ethylene Oxide (EtO) from Commercial Sterilizers

Salinas, Puerto Rico

June 2024

In March 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it is strengthening Clean Air Act (CAA) standards for ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions from commercial sterilization facilities. EPA's updates to the EtO regulations require that commercial sterilization facilities reduce EtO emissions to better protect workers and communities around their facilities.

The updated air toxics standards will:

- Reduce EtO emissions from commercial sterilization facilities by over 90 percent nationwide.
- Significantly reduce the lifetime cancer risk from EtO exposure for people living near commercial sterilization facilities.
- Require commercial sterilization facilities to use improved technology, procedures, and practices to control EtO emissions.
- Require most commercial sterilization facilities report continuous emissions monitoring and quarterly emissions report data to EPA and communities to ensure transparency and accountability.

Steri-Tech Commercial Sterilization Facility

The EPA continues to work to bring Steri-Tech into compliance with regulations and control emissions of ethylene oxide from its commercial sterilizer facility in Salinas. On October 23, 2023, EPA issued an Administrative Compliance Order and Notice of Violation. Steri-Tech then filed an appeal with the First Circuit court against EPA on January 17, 2024. The EPA cannot comment on ongoing litigation or enforcement matters. This matter remains a priority for EPA and we are committed to providing updates to the community when we can.

To learn more about this facility, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/hazardous-air-pollutants-ethylene-oxide/forms/salinas-puerto-rico-steri-tech-inc>



To learn more about EtO and read the final rulemaking, visit EPA's EtO webpage at: www.epa.gov/hazardous-air-pollutants-ethylene-oxide



If you have any additional questions or concerns, please reach out to:

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