



## **ADVISORY**

### **NOTICE OF RULE ADOPTION RULE 1203 - ETHYLENE OXIDE STERILIZERS AND AERATORS (NEW RULE)**

The Air Pollution Control Board adopted Rule 1203, which became effective July 23, 1991. Rule 1203 is a new rule designed to reduce emissions of ethylene oxide from commercial and medical sterilizers and aerators using pure or blended ethylene oxide as a sterilant gas. Ethylene oxide is a suspected human carcinogen and has been identified through the state Tanner Process (AB1807) as a toxic air contaminant. In May 1990, the California Air Resources Board adopted an Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for ethylene oxide sterilizers and aerators. Rule 1203 is similar to the ATCM. State law requires that local air pollution control districts adopt regulations no less stringent than the ATCM within a specified time after adoption by the Air Resources Board.

Rule 1203 will prohibit measurable leaks of ethylene oxide into the atmosphere from all sterilizers and aerators and the discharge of wastewater contaminated with ethylene oxide. For facilities using more than 25 lbs/year but less than or equal to 600 lbs of ethylene oxide per year, the rule requires installation of emission control devices to reduce ethylene oxide emissions from sterilizers by 99% by weight. For facilities using more than 600 lbs of ethylene oxide per year, the rule requires the installation of emission control devices to reduce ethylene oxide emissions from sterilizers by 99.9% by weight and from aerator exhausts by 95% by weight.

A schedule for compliance with these requirements is mandated by Rule 1203. Effective July 23, 1991, no person shall operate a sterilizer or aerator exhaust system, including but not limited to any piping or ducting, unless they are leak-free. Compliance with wastewater discharge standards as well as emission control standards will be required within 12 to 24 months from July 23, 1991, depending on the magnitude of the facility's emissions.

Recordkeeping will be required regardless of the amount of ethylene oxide used even though facilities using less than 25 pounds of ethylene oxide per year are exempt from the control requirements of Rule 1203. Records shall include sterilizers/aerators hours of operation, amounts of ethylene oxide used and control equipment operating parameters as well as inspection/maintenance schedules.

If you would like a copy of the rule, call Juanita Ogata at (619) 694-3307. If you have any questions concerning this advisory, contact the District's Enforcement Division at (619) 694-3340.

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## SECOND ADVISORY

### **NOTICE OF RULE 1203 DEADLINE REQUIREMENTS ETHYLENE OXIDE STERILIZERS & AERATORS**

On July 23, 1991, the Air Pollution Control Board adopted Rule 1203. It became effective on that day. Rule 1203 is designed to reduce emissions of ethylene oxide from commercial and medical sterilizers and aerators that use pure or blended ethylene oxide as a sterilant gas. Ethylene oxide is a suspected human carcinogen and has been identified by the state Air Resources Board (ARB) as a toxic air contaminant. Rule 1203 is similar to an Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) adopted by the ARB in May 1990.

The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District mailed a Rule 1203 advisory in August 1991 to all known ethylene oxide facilities. That advisory described Rule 1203 emission reduction requirements, leak prohibitions, compliance deadlines and recordkeeping requirements.

This advisory is to notify affected facilities of impending deadlines for control equipment application submittals and emissions source testing, and of equipment requirements.

- For a facility operating aeration-only equipment, Rule 1203 requires an application for an Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate for emissions control equipment by **May 23, 1992**, and a demonstration of final compliance by **January 23, 1993**, of a 95.0% ethylene oxide emission reduction efficiency for the aerator exhaust.
- Facilities using between 600 and 5,000 pounds per year of ethylene oxide must submit an application for a Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate for emissions control equipment no later than **May 23, 1992**. The rule also requires facilities to demonstrate final compliance by **January 23, 1993**, with the following: a 99.9% ethylene oxide emission reduction efficiency for the sterilizer exhaust, a 95.0% ethylene oxide emission reduction efficiency for aerator exhaust, any back-draft valve to be vented to either the sterilizer or aerator exhaust stream emission control equipment, and that there is no discharge of sterilizer exhaust vacuum pump working fluid to wastewater streams.
- Facilities using between 25 and 600 pounds per year of ethylene oxide must submit an application for an Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate for emission control equipment no later than **November 23, 1992**. The rule also requires facilities to demonstrate final compliance by **July 23, 1993**, with the following: a 99.0% ethylene oxide sterilizer emission reduction efficiency for the sterilizer exhaust, and that there is no discharge of sterilizer exhaust vacuum pump working fluid to wastewater streams.

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The application fee for an Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate for emission control equipment is calculated on a time and materials basis for each source and will be approximately \$3,000. This fee includes engineering permit evaluation, source testing observation, source test report review, and the first year's permit renewal fee. Thereafter, the annual permit renewal fee will be approximately \$125. Annual compliance testing to ensure control efficiency standards may be required. Such testing will be done at the expense of the facility.

To obtain an application, please contact the District's Clerical Division at (619) 694-3307. If you have questions regarding rule requirements or the permit evaluation, please contact Joe Yager in the Engineering Division at (619) 694-3324. For questions concerning source testing, contact Judy Lake in the Monitoring and Technical Services Division at (619) 694-3351. For questions related to this advisory, contact the Enforcement Division at (619) 694-3340. If you would like a copy of the rule, call Juanita Ogata at (619) 694-8851.

KRC:jl  
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