

## EPA Finalizes Rules for Hospital Ethylene Oxide Sterilizers

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for hospital ethylene oxide sterilizers on December 28, 2007 (*73 Federal Register 73611*) located in 40 Code of Regulations (CFR) Part 63 Subpart WWWW. This rule will require all sources meeting the applicability requirements within this category to meet hazardous air pollutant emission standards reflecting the application of the generally available control technology (GACT).

You may be subject to this subpart if you own or operate an iron and steel foundry that is an area source of hazardous air pollutants (HAP). An area source is a facility that has the potential to emit <10 tons per year (TPY) of individual hazardous air pollutants (HAP) or 25 TPY of combined HAP. "Hospitals" are defined as those facilities that provide medical care and treatment for patients who are acutely or chronically ill on an inpatient basis under supervision of licensed physicians and under 24 hr/day nursing care. Hospitals include diagnostic and major surgery facilities.

The following facilities are exempt from this rule:

- Doctor's offices
- Clinics
- Other facilities whose primary purpose is to provide medical services on an outpatient basis

Following is a brief summary of the compliance requirements. The final rule provides a more detailed explanation regarding applicability and exemptions and should be reviewed prior to making an applicability determination.

### **Compliance Requirements**

- Hospitals must implement a **management practice** to sterilize full loads of items having a common aeration time.
- Hospitals which route ethylene oxide to an air pollution control device are in compliance with the rule requirements.

The compliance date for existing affected sources (facilities which started up before November 6, 2006) is December 29, 2008. Facilities which started up after November 6, 2006 must comply upon startup.

Sources subject to this standard must submit an initial notification form to Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) and EPA Region VII. Existing sources must submit an initial notification by June 25, 2009. New sources must submit an initial notification by June 23, 2008. The initial notification form is located on the NDEQ website at [www.deq.state.ne.us](http://www.deq.state.ne.us) under Publications & Forms, Air Toxics Program, Applications and Forms. If you are located in the city limits of Omaha or Lancaster County, your notification must be sent to the Omaha Air Quality Control or Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department, respectively.

Please refer to the Federal Register notice containing the final rule and EPA's brochure describing the rule requirements on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/area/arearules.html>.