

Department of Environmental Quality  
Air Quality Program

**GENERAL  
AIR CONTAMINANT DISCHARGE PERMIT  
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**HOSPITAL ETHYLENE OXIDE STERILIZERS**

SOURCE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATION

1. This General Permit is designed to regulate air contaminant emissions from hospitals subject the Hospital Ethylene Oxide Sterilizer National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (40 C.F.R. part 63 subpart WWWW).
2. The facilities assigned to this General Permit may not emit any other air pollution that requires regulation beyond that specified in this permit, except for other pollution emissions that also qualify for assignment and are assigned to other General Permits and categorically insignificant activities defined by OAR Chapter 340 Division 200. A facility that has experienced reoccurring or serious compliance problems is not eligible for assignment to this permit.
3. The facilities assigned to this General Permit must meet the definition of hospital, as defined in NESHAP subpart WWWW and as follows:  
Hospital means a facility that provides medical care and treatment for patients who are acutely ill or chronically ill on an inpatient basis under supervision of licensed physicians and under nursing care offered 24 hours per day. Hospitals include diagnostic and major surgery facilities but exclude doctor's offices, clinics, or other facilities whose primary purpose is to provide medical services to humans or animals on an outpatient basis.

ASSESSMENT OF EMISSIONS

4. Facilities assigned to this General Permit are area sources of ethylene oxide emissions (a Hazardous Air Pollutant).
5. DEQ has assessed the level of emissions of air pollutants from these facilities and determined that facilities complying with the operational limits and monitoring requirements of this permit will remain area sources and compliant with applicable emission limits.

SPECIFIC AIR PROGRAM APPLICABILITY

6. Facilities assigned to this General Permit are subject to the general nuisance requirements (odors) in OAR Chapter 340, Division 208. The permit contains requirements and limitations to ensure compliance with these standards. The visible emissions and fugitive dust standards in OAR Chapter 340, Division 208 are applicable to these facilities but they do not typically cause visible or fugitive emissions. The particulate matter emission limits in OAR Chapter 340, Division 226 are not applicable to these facilities because the emissions, if any, are fugitives, which cannot be measured using standard test methods.

7. This permit incorporates the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) regulations in 40 C.F.R. Part 63, Subpart WWWW, for hospital ethylene oxide sterilizers. EPA promulgated the NESHAP on December 28, 2007. The NESHAP is adopted as state rule in OAR 340-244-0220.

#### COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

8. Permittees are required to maintain records of notifications, ethylene oxide use, sterilization cycles conducted, manufacturer documentation for sterilization units and control devices, additional records associated with any sterilization cycles when a control device is not operational, and complaints received at the facility. Permittees are also required to submit an annual report to DEQ.
9. DEQ staff members review annual report submittals and perform site inspections of the permitted facilities on a routine basis; inspections may be performed more frequently if complaints are received.

#### REVOCAION OF ASSIGNMENT

10. Any facility that fails to demonstrate compliance or fails to conform to the requirements and limitations contained in the permit may have its assignment to the General Permit revoked. The facility would then be subject to a more stringent level of permitting.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

General Air Contaminant Discharge Permits are authorized by Oregon Administrative Rules and are part of the State Implementation Plan. As part of the General ACDP issuance process under OAR chapter 340 division 209, the public was provided at least 30 days to submit written comments. DEQ reviewed all comments received in the comment period and modified the permit in response to the comments.

AQGP-020r, Hospital Sterilization  
g c e 12/22/09; drd 1/24/2020;