



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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South Coast AQMD Issues Violation to Parter Sterilization Services in Carson for Elevated Levels of Ethylene Oxide

DIAMOND BAR – Today, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Parter Sterilization Services (Parter) in Carson for elevated levels of Ethylene Oxide (EtO), potentially posing a significant health risk to the public.

South Coast AQMD has an ongoing investigation into emissions of EtO from facilities within its jurisdiction. As part of this effort, air sampling was conducted around the Parter facility, and elevated levels of EtO were discovered, prompting more comprehensive air monitoring and further investigation.

South Coast AQMD found that the average level of EtO between July 10, 2022 and July 25, 2022 was about 80 parts per billion (ppb) at a neighboring business. Using health risk assessment methods established by the State of California, the estimated cancer risk is more than 20 times above South Coast AQMD's significant health risk threshold, assuming exposure over many years. The agency's Rule 402 and California Health & Safety Code § 41700 prohibit the emission of air contaminants that endanger the health or safety of the public.

The agency will continue to work on identifying the source(s) of EtO from the facility's operations and actions to reduce emissions. The nearest residential area is about 700 feet from Parter, and the closest elementary school is about 2,000 feet from the facility. South Coast AQMD is working with the City of Carson to identify additional locations to collect 24-hour samples in the nearest residential area and close to the school. South Coast AQMD is continuing its investigation to assess EtO emissions and will be working with the facility to estimate potential health impacts when more data is available.

In addition to issuing the NOV, South Coast AQMD also sent a [Proposition 65 Notice](#) advising the City of Carson, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Health Officer of the illegal discharge likely to impact public health or safety.

Parter uses EtO to conduct sterilization services for medical device manufacturers. Their facility is located at 17115 Kingsview Avenue in the City of Carson, and its operations run 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

EtO is a flammable, colorless gas used to sterilize medical equipment and make products, including antifreeze, textiles, solvents, detergents, and adhesives. Short-term exposure to EtO may cause headaches, weakness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, eye and skin burns, and reproductive effects. Long-term exposure to EtO over a number of years increases the risk of certain cancers including lymphoid and breast cancer.

NOVs can result in civil penalties. In some cases, the company can choose to implement voluntary measures to reduce emissions or otherwise prevent further violations. If no settlement is reached, a civil lawsuit may ultimately be filed in superior court.

South Coast AQMD is pursuing actions to minimize EtO emissions from all sterilization facilities within the agency's jurisdiction, including initiating rulemaking efforts that will result in stricter requirements and continuing its ongoing and extensive investigation. For more information on the overall initiative please visit: www.aqmd.gov/eto.

More information on South Coast AQMD's activities related to Parter Sterilization Services can be found at www.aqmd.gov/parter.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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