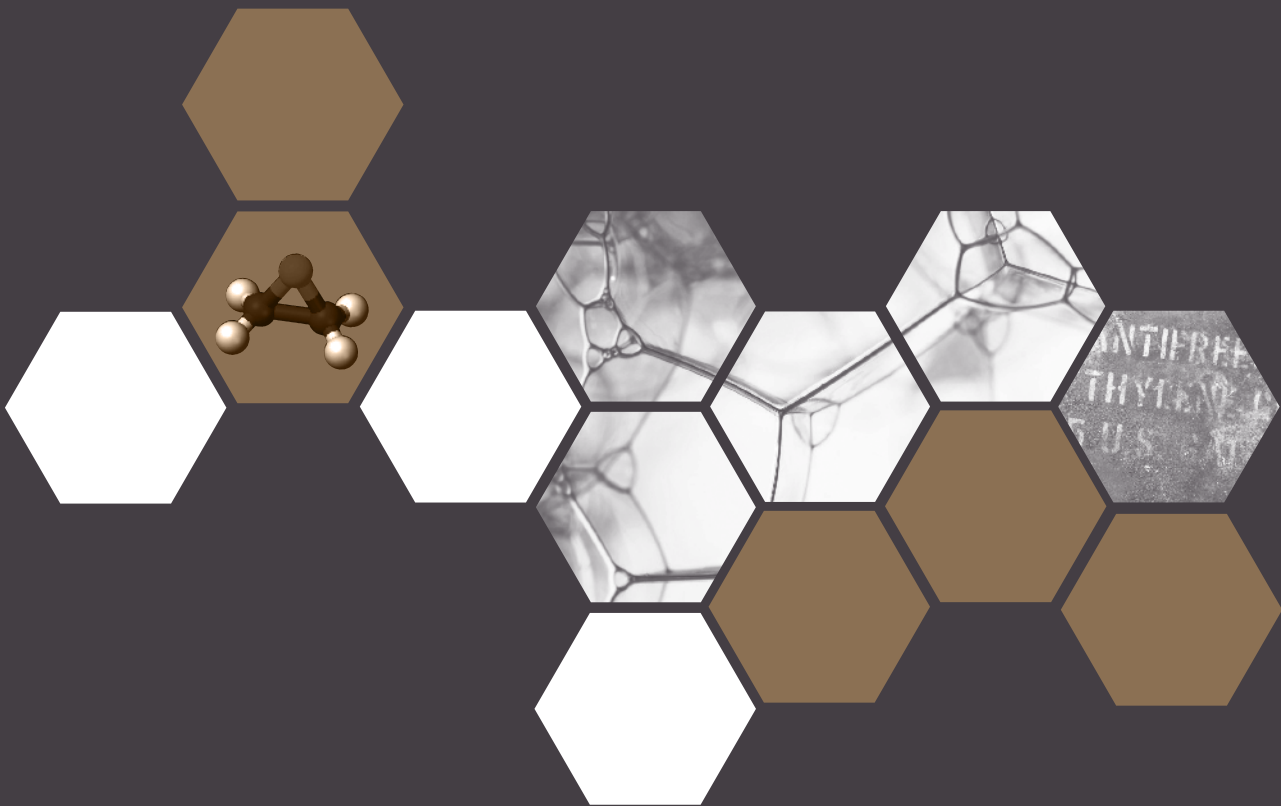


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# To the Reader

## Manual Preparation

As members and affiliated companies of the American Chemistry Council, we support efforts to improve the industry's responsible management of chemicals. To assist in this effort, the American Chemistry Council's Ethylene Oxide/Ethylene Glycols Panel supported the creation and publication of this manual. The Panel is comprised of the following companies:

Balchem Corporation/ARC Specialty Products

BASF Corporation

Bayer Material Science LLC

Celanese Ltd.

Champion Technologies

Croda, Inc.

The Dow Chemical Company

Eastman Chemical Company

Honeywell

Shell Chemical LP

The development of this manual was led by the Panel's Ethylene Oxide Safety Task Group (EOSTG), a group comprised of producers and users of ethylene oxide. The EOSTG functions to generate, collect, evaluate and share information to support product stewardship with regard to ethylene oxide. The EOSTG formed a manual work group, chaired by Keith Vogel of Lyondell Chemical Company, to lead the development of this document. The following work group members provided significant contributions:

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# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose and Use of Manual

This manual has been developed for use by producers and industrial users of ethylene oxide. The purpose of this product stewardship document is to provide the reader with a better understanding of how ethylene oxide is used to produce products that play important roles in our lives. It is also our intent to address the health, safety and environmental aspects associated with manufacturing, distributing, using and disposing of ethylene oxide and the bulk of the material presented emphasizes these topics.

This information is provided as a resource in the development of producers' and users' design, operation, maintenance, training and emergency response practices. References to applicable regulations, industry practices are made in tables and text. Contact your supplier for further information as necessary.

Note that a separate, independent group of ethylene oxide producers previously produced two editions of an ethylene oxide guidance manual: Ethylene Oxide User's Guide, First (1995) and Second (1999) Editions. It is the intention of those producers that this manual supercedes the Ethylene Oxide User's Guide, First and Second Editions.

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