

# COMPANY STATEMENT



**August 28, 2019**

## **BD Statement on Compliance Record for Covington and Madison Facilities**

BD is proud of the safety and compliance records for our sterilization facilities in Covington and Madison. Since 2000, BD (formerly C. R. Bard, Inc.) reported only one ethylene oxide release event in Covington and one in Madison. There were no injuries as a result of either event. If an event occurs, we immediately take corrective actions and report it to the proper regulatory authorities.

On January 20, 2016, the BD facility in Covington had a flange gasket failure on the vaporizer (the piece of equipment that converts ethylene oxide from liquid to gas), which resulted in not more than 85 pounds of ethylene oxide gas being released inside the facility. As part of our automated safety systems, a higher level of ethylene oxide was detected in the manifold room where the vaporizer is located, and the sterilization process was stopped immediately. There were no evacuations needed because no employees were present in the manifold room at the time of the release. BD reported the event within six hours after it occurred. After an investigation by Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), they determined no further actions were needed. The event also was disclosed to the Newton County Emergency Management Agency and the City of Covington Fire Department.

As part of our [previously announced commitments](#) to voluntarily further reduce emissions, our proposed upgrades in Covington will include a collection and treatment system to collect fugitive ethylene oxide emissions from the vaporizer room and chamber rooms.

On Oct. 10, 2006, BD employees discovered that a vessel vacuum test was incorrectly run at the Madison facility on Sept. 29, 2006, resulting in the release of not greater than 26 pounds of ethylene oxide. The site team discovered and reported the event on Oct. 10, 2006. This event occurred before the Madison facility began full operations. Reoccurrence of this incident was permanently corrected by a change in the vacuum test program protocol. This is the only ethylene oxide release event in the history of the Madison facility.

BD will post additional compliance records for both facilities on its website at <http://EtOSafety.BD.com> dating back to 1991 when the Covington facility opened.

# # #