

Chart 2: Ethylene oxide (EtO) (C₂H₄O), Propylene oxide (PrO) (C₃H₆O) analyzers

INTERFERING GAS									
	Cl ₂	CO	CO ₂	ethyl alcohol	Freon	glutaraldehyde	isopropyl alcohol	N ₂ O	NH ₃
EtO ANALYZER	25 [N]	6	>10 ⁴	380	>10 ⁴	5	1.1 ††	>10 ⁴	300
PrO ANALYZER	26 [N]	5.5	>10 ⁴	400	>10 ⁴	6	1 ††	>10 ⁴	320

†† Isopropyl alcohol represents the most significant interference on the ethylene oxide sensor, but in nearly all cases, potential problems can be overcome. Typical remedial actions include:

- Point shutdown/automatic restart, which allows the operator to temporarily interrupt monitoring at points that could be affected when isopropyl alcohol is used. Monitoring restarts automatically on a time-adjustable basis.
- Selection of monitoring points away from those areas that may be unduly affected by isopropyl alcohol.
- Using alternative germicides, which do not contain isopropyl alcohol.

The EtO sensor may also respond to strong odors of colognes and perfumes, and to certain floor strippers and waxes. Refer to guidelines above covering isopropyl alcohol. Remember that you are attempting to monitor parts per million levels of ethylene oxide in an environment that may contain percent (10,000 ppm = 1 percent) levels of these potentially interfering compounds.

[N] = Negative interference