Humidifier Sterilizer Issue at a Glance (as of August 19, 2016)

**Regulatory Changes after 2011**
- **Toxic Chemicals Control Act**
  - The Toxic Chemicals Control Act regulates and assesses chemical substances since it was introduced in February 1971 by the Ministry of Environment.
  - New chemical substance should be regulated for toxicity testing but the law has limitations in that it does not require existing chemical substances to be examined.
  - The Act on Registration, Evaluation, and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH) was introduced in 2007.
- **Quality Control and Safety Management of Industrial Products Act**
  - The Quality Control and Safety Management of Industrial Products Act mandates that such everyday chemical products as air purifiers and humidifiers be regulated.
  - After 2007, HS was regulated under the Quality Control and Safety Management of Industrial Products Act, but because the inspection was limited to information such as appearance, volume, weight, toxic chemical ingredients, etc., no issues were raised.
- **Pharmaceutical Affairs Act**
  - The Pharmaceutical Affairs Act requires necessary issues related to pharmaceuticals to improve national health (Ministry of Health and Welfare).
  - The Act asks for the registration and management of HS products, and a special working group was established for it.
  - After 2015, HS was suggested to be the cause of lung damage of the public. Following the law, the Ministry of Health and Welfare announced that it was to decide the HS product as a pharmaceutical. It is highly likely that the air in humidifiers is contaminated with HS, and the HS is even considered to cause lung disease.
- **HS Compensation Plan**
  - Oxy RB, the representative manufacturer of humidifiers, announced the compensation plan for the victims of lung damage from humidifiers.
  - The Oxy RB has published the results of its review of all reports of compensation requests.