

To: Our Valued Customers

Shimadzu Industrial Systems Co., Ltd.

Incident Report and Urgent Safety Notice for Industrial Furnaces

Dear Valued Customers,

We are writing to notify you of a recent incident involving an industrial furnace supplied by our company, and to strongly request your cooperation regarding safety. Recently, an incident was confirmed in which a malfunction of the furnace led to the incomplete combustion of the internal carbon insulation material, resulting in the temporary generation of carbon monoxide (CO). Furthermore, a leak in the exhaust duct installed by the customer allowed CO to escape into the furnace installation room. Since the room was small and highly airtight, this exposure resulted in the operator suffering from CO poisoning. Fortunately, the symptoms were mild, and the operator was examined at a hospital and returned to work after a short period.

In light of this incident, we request that you reconfirm the safety precautions already detailed in the instruction manual and implement additional safety measures.

Details

Important Safety Precautions

1. Regarding the Risk of CO Generation

Carbon monoxide (CO) can be generated not only by furnace malfunctions or the incomplete combustion of insulation materials, but also by vapors emitted from processed materials or moisture absorption after the furnace door is opened to the atmosphere. If an unusual odor is detected, or if symptoms such as dizziness, headaches, or fatigue occur, stop work immediately, ventilate the area, and evacuate.

2. Ensure Exhaust is Securely Routed Outdoors (Reconfirmation of Existing Guidelines)

Connect the exhaust duct reliably to the outdoors, and install and inspect it to prevent any leaks. Regularly check the tightness of duct connections, joints, flanges, and other fittings.

3. Adequate Ventilation and Airflow in the Installation Room (Reconfirmation of Existing Guidelines)

CO has approximately the same density as air and tends to stagnate. Because it is colorless, odorless, and tasteless, operators often fail to notice leaks into the room, which can readily lead to poisoning.

Therefore, ensure sufficient natural or mechanical ventilation in the installation room at all times. If the ventilation capacity is insufficient, consider restricting the number of personnel in the room during work and limiting the duration of work.

4. Strong Recommendation to Install CO Detectors When Ventilation is Insufficient

If ventilation in the installation room is inadequate or unreliable, a CO detector must be installed. Carry out periodic inspection, battery replacement, and sensitivity testing of the detector, and confirm that it operates correctly.