October 1st, 2025

Dear Customers

Tokai Carbon Co., Ltd.
Carbon Black Division

Notice of Amendment to the Labor Safety and Health Regulations Effective October 1st, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam, We hope your company continues to prosper. We sincerely appreciate your continued support and patronage.
We would like to inform you of the following amendment to the Labor Safety and Health Regulations. Thank you for your kind attention and review.

Sincerely yours,

Note

Content

Based on the provision of Article 577-2, Paragraph 2, Supplement 1 of the Industrial Safety and Health Regulations, a "concentration standard value" for carbon black has been added as a concentration standard established by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Supplement 2.

Effective Date

October 1st, 2025

Added "concentration standard value" for carbon black

8-hour concentration standard value 0.3 mg/m$^3$ (as respirable aerosol fraction)
Note: The average concentration of carbon black during an 8-hour exposure (8-hour time-weighted average) must not exceed the '8-hour concentration reference value,' but no penalties are currently established.

Revision of SDS content

From October 1st, 2025, in response to revisions to the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations, the content of the SDS has been revised.

Response

- Please obtain the latest Safety Data Sheet (SDS) from the following URL.
  URL:https://www.tokaicarbon.co.jp/products/carbon_b/

- Please use CREATE-SIMPLE (Create Simple) Supplement 4, a risk assessment support tool, to conduct the initial investigation of the risk assessment Supplement 5.
- Since the dispersibility varies depending on the state and usage environment of carbon black, there is a possibility that the risk will be evaluated as high in CREATE-SIMPLE.
- Depending on the risk, please contact a working environment measurement company for personal exposure measurement (confirmation measurement) Supplement 6.
- Based on the measurement results, please select an appropriate dust mask with reference to the designated protection factor Supplement 7. For details, please contact the respiratory protective equipment company.

Supplementary Explanation

Supplement 1:

Operators who manufacture or handle certain specified substances, defined by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare as those that pose no risk of health damage to workers when exposure is limited to a certain level, in indoor workplaces (excluding those primarily related to products for general consumer use), must ensure that the level of exposure of workers to these substances does not exceed the concentration standards set by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Supplement 2:

Partial revision of the substances and concentration standards set by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare based on the provisions of Article 577-2, Paragraph 2 of the Industrial Safety and Health Regulations (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Notice No. 196 of 2024).

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/11300000/001252599.pdf

Supplement 3:

Inhalable particles (inhalable dust) refer to particles that deposit in the upper respiratory tract (nose, throat, trachea, etc.).

Respirable particles (respirable dust) are particles that pass through the upper respiratory tract and reach deep into the lungs (alveoli).

Supplement 4:

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare - Workplace Safety

https://anzeninfo.mhlw.go.jp/user/anzen/kag/ankgc07_3.htm

Supplement 5:
Technical guidelines on the application of concentration standards to prevent health disorders caused by chemical substances (Technical Guidelines Notification No. 24, April 27, 2023; amended by Technical Guidelines Notification No. 27, September 19, 2025)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/11300000/001566348.pdf

2-1(1) Operators shall identify the hazards or harmfulness of all risk assessment target substances used at the workplace, grasp the extent to which workers are exposed to such substances by appropriate methods including the use of mathematical models, estimate the risks, and based on the results, implement necessary risk reduction measures. These measures include substituting with less hazardous or harmful substances, engineering controls, administrative controls, and use of effective protective equipment, to minimize the extent of workers' exposure to these substances.

(Reference 2) Flowchart

Supplement 6
Technical Guidelines on the Application of Concentration Standards to Prevent Health Disorders Caused by Chemical Substances (Technical Guidelines Announcement No. 24 dated April 27, 2023, revised by Technical Guidelines Announcement No. 27 dated September 19, 2025)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/11300000/001566348.pdf

2-1(2) When an employer identifies indoor work where the level of worker exposure to a substance with a set concentration standard value may exceed that concentration standard value during the risk estimation process, the employer must conduct confirmatory measurements and, based on the results, implement necessary risk reduction measures, including ensuring that all workers engaged in that work are exposed to the substance at levels below the concentration standard value.

The method for confirming that the degree of worker exposure is below the concentration standard value is to be decided by the business operator, and it is

acceptable to use methods other than confirmation measurements. However, the business operator must be able to demonstrate to labor standards inspection agencies and others that the degree of worker exposure is below the concentration standard value. Also, when conducting confirmation measurements, it is desirable for an industrial hygienist to be involved in order to ensure the accuracy of the confirmation measurements.

3-1(1) The business operator shall evaluate the degree of exposure of workers engaged in uniform exposure tasks based on the investigation of work content through risk assessment, the results of on-site measurements, and analyses using mathematical models. At that time, if the concentration of substances in the workers' breathing zone is assessed to exceed about half of the concentration standard value for an 8-hour exposure (hereinafter referred to as the "8-hour concentration standard value"), a confirmation measurement shall be conducted.

4-1 Standard methods for sample collection and analysis
The standard sampling and analysis methods by operators in confirmation measurements shall be as stipulated in Appendix 1. However, if there are methods with accuracy equivalent to or higher than these, it is acceptable to use those methods.

Appendix 1 Sampling and analysis methods by type of substance

Reference: Japan Society for Occupational Health - Guidelines for Personal Exposure Measurement of Chemical Substances
https://jsoh-ohe.umin.jp/files/kojinbakuro/guideline_231024.pdf

Reference: Report of the Expert Review Meeting on Chemical Substance Management for Fiscal Year 2024
pp.401-402 Carbon Black: An Example of Measurement Methods
https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_54787.html

Supplement 7
Technical Guidelines on the Application of Concentration Standards to Prevent Health Hazards Caused by Chemical Substances (Technical Guidelines Notice No. 24 issued on April 27, 2023, as amended by Technical Guidelines Notice No. 27 issued on September 19, 2025)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/11300000/001566348.pdf

2-1(6)e The extent of workers' exposure is expressed as the concentration measured in the workers' breathing zone if respiratory protective equipment is not used, and as the concentration inside the respiratory protective equipment if such equipment is used. Therefore, even if the concentration of substances in the workers' breathing zone exceeds the concentration standard value, it should be noted that it is permissible to reduce the concentration of substances to which workers are exposed to below the concentration standard value through the effective use of respiratory protective equipment. However, since it is difficult to actually measure the concentration inside the respiratory protective equipment, the concentration inside the respiratory protective equipment can be calculated by dividing the concentration of substances in the worker's breathing zone by the designated protection factor of the respiratory protective equipment.

Table 3-1: Designated Protection Factors for Dust Masks
Table 3-3: Designated Protection Factors for Powered Air-Purifying Respirators
Table 3-4: Designated Protection Factors for Other Respiratory Protective Equipment

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