

Case study: Air purifying unit particle generation TOMBO™ No. 8803-ZAE (Honeycycle™ ZAE)



Industry

Contamination control in medical sector

Customer

Air purifier systems manufacturer

Background

Customer was experiencing issues with one of their large air volume purification units for use in hospitals. These units were using plasma to eliminate bacteria, viruses, and other contaminants from air. However, at times, aside from purified air, the unit also began releasing fine, dark particles. First noticed and complained about by one of their end users, customer halted production until they were able to resolve the issue. This not only affected their sales but also the safety of all the other machines and future production. The customer needed to identify the source of the particle generation, find a solution that would cause minimal disruptions and finish the works in as quick time as possible in order to minimize losses.

Challenges faced

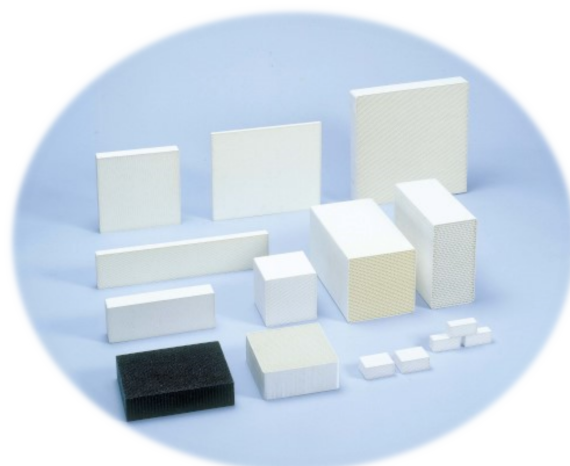
The main challenge was to find the source of the particle generation. There were no particles entering the system on the process inlet air side which meant that the particle generation occurred inside the machine. After further review and analysis, the source was identified as the activated carbon filter used in the unit. This discovery presented more challenges. Customer preferred a catalyst with odour removing abilities. So, they had to find a new filter supplier with material that eliminated particle generation and maintained the performance of the unit.

Solution and benefits

The technical team in NICHIAS analysed the unit's filter and identified that the catalyst was not properly impregnated into the substrate which meant that the catalyst was detaching from the substrate and releasing into the air. Customer wanted to keep the same catalyst as part of the functional material for ozone removal. Thankfully, NICHIAS had already invested in the development of a better catalyst-binder technique which resulted in the manufacture of TOMBO No. 8803-ZAE. This filter is made from MnO₂ and catalyst on aluminium honeycomb core. After series of tests in customer's application, it was confirmed that no defect particle generation occurred. Adopting TOMBO No. 8803-ZAE also offered a lower pressure drop and high removal efficiency which improved the unit's overall performance. As a result, customer was able to install NICHIAS' filter into all the unit and re-launch the systems on the market.

For more information, please visit:

<https://nichias.co.jp/en>



Honeycycle™ filter substrates

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Head Office

6-1, Hatchobori 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-8555, Japan
International Marketing and Sales Group
 Phone: 81-3-4413-1132 Fax: 81-3-3552-6108
 Web Site: <https://www.nichias.co.jp/>

Overseas Sales Companies
Indonesia
PT. NICHIAS SUNIJAYA

Sequis Tower Level 19 Suite 1&2,
 Jl. Jend Sudirman Kav. 71, Jakarta 12190, Indonesia
 Phone: +62-21- 2277-6101 Fax: +62-21- 2793-8033

Malaysia
NICHIAS SOUTHEAST ASIA SDN. BHD.

Suite A1102, 11th Floor, West Wing, Wisma Consplant 2,
 No. 7, Jalan SS 16/1, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.
 Phone: +60-3-5636-4067 Fax: +60-3-5636-4078

Singapore
NICHIAS SINGAPORE PTE. LTD.

25 International Business Park, #01-15/17 German Centre,
 Singapore 609916
 Phone: +65-6571-0830/0838 Fax: +65-6265-7681

Vietnam
NICHIAS VIETNAM CO., LTD

Room 709, Elite Business Center, 7th Floor Diamond Flower Building,
 48 Le Van Luong Street, Nhan Chinh Ward, Thanh Xuan District,
 Hanoi, Vietnam
 Phone: + 84-24-6664-3136 Fax: + 84-24-6666-8168

Thailand
NICHIAS (THAILAND) CO., LTD.

85 Moo 1, Wellgrow Industrial Estate T. Homsin, A. Bangpakong
 Chachoengsao 24180, Thailand
 Phone: +66-38-570-600 Fax: +66-38-570-601

THAI NICHIAS INTERNATIONAL CO., LTD.

Unit 1107, 11th Floor, AIA Capital Center
 89 Ratchadaphisek Road, Dindaeng, Dindaeng, Bangkok 10400 Thailand
 Phone: +66-2-001-2060 Fax: +66-2-001-2062

China
NICHIAS (SHANGHAI) TRADING CO., LTD.

霓佳斯 (上海) 贸易有限公司
 Room 1701, THE PLACE, Tower A, No. 100 Zun Yi Road,
 Changning District, Shanghai, P.R.China Postcode 200051
 中国上海市长宁区遵义路100号虹桥南丰城A栋1701室 邮编200051
 Phone: +86-21-6236-1783 Fax: +86-21-6236-1781

NICHIAS (SHANGHAI) TRADING CO., LTD. Guangzhou Branch

霓佳斯 (上海) 贸易有限公司 广州分公司
 17F-G, Gold Sun Building, No.109 Tiyu West Road, Guangzhou,
 Guang Dong Province, 510620, P.R.China
 中国广东省广州市天河区体育西路109号高盛大厦17楼G室 邮编 510620
 Phone: +86-20-3879-1640 Fax: +86-20-3879-1647

NICHIAS (SHANGHAI) AUTOPARTS TRADING CO., LTD.

霓佳斯 (上海) 汽车零部件贸易有限公司
 Room 1702, THE PLACE, Tower A, No. 100 Zun Yi Road,
 Changning District, Shanghai, P.R.China Postcode 200051
 中国上海市长宁区遵义路100号虹桥南丰城A栋1702室 邮编200051
 Phone: +86-21-6236-2668 Fax: +86-21-6236-2667

Overseas Construction Companies
Malaysia
NICHIAS SOUTHEAST ASIA SDN. BHD.

Suite A1102, 11th Floor, West Wing, Wisma Consplant 2,
 No. 7, Jalan SS 16/1, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.
 Phone: +60-3-5636-4067 Fax: +60-3-5636-4078

Thailand
THAI-NICHIAS ENGINEERING CO., LTD.

45 Huaypong-Nongbon Road, Huaypong, Muang Rayong,
 Rayong Province 21150, Thailand
 Phone: +66-38-682-242 Fax: +66-38-691-156

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Indonesia
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