

November 15, 2021

URGENT SAFETY ALERT

Redesigned POST VALVE connected to the oxygen regulator

Dear valued partner,

Recently, Tekno Valve and Sherwood removed the radius/chamfer edge on their POST VALVE, thus changing the historical standard design of past decades. This change creates a risk of leakage in the connection seal between the new POST VALVE and some existing oxygen regulators.

As the following picture shows:

Valve Comparison:

Traditional Design



Chamfered Valve Corners

Sherwood



Slight Round Corner

Tekno Valve



Slight Round Corner

Regulator Fit:

Traditional Design



Proper washer seal and fit.
Regulator yoke is flush to valve

Sherwood



Incomplete washer seal
Valve corners interfere with regulator yoke, hindering proper fit

Tekno Valve



Incomplete washer seal
Valve corners interfere with regulator yoke, hindering proper fit



Warning Reminder:

Tests and feedback from our partners in the United States show that the combination of the redesigned POST VALVE and most oxygen regulators on the market cannot produce reliable sealing. The lack of a positive and effective seal is a serious safety hazard because it may cause oxygen leakage due to the partial seal of the regulator gasket. The new POST VALVE has poor compatibility with most of the oxygen regulators currently used in the US market, so oxygen leakage is a very real concern.

We believe that there is a risk that if Tekno Valves and Sherwood continue to sell the redesigned POST VALVE to the market, every oxygen patient, office or provider who uses aluminum oxygen cylinders with the redesigned POST VALVE with current regulators may face serious safety risks every time they open the oxygen cylinder. This risk will increase if more redesigned POST VALVE valves without chamfered edges enter the market and are not compatible with the existing oxygen regulators being used.

New POST VALVE number query

It is our understanding the newly designed POST VALVES were produced by Sherwood from June 2021 to September 2021. These specific production dates can be found on Sherwood's official website. The difference between the old post valve and the new post valve can also be clearly determined visually, as demonstrated in the above photos.

How to avoid risks

1. Remind users to observe whether the POST VALVE is the old design or the new design before use. Again, the new post valve without chamfered edges is incompatible with most of the current oxygen regulators on the market, and incompatible connections may pose a safety hazard to oxygen leakage.
2. Change the size of the current style oxygen regulator to match the newly designed POST VALVE.

At this time, we are not certain whether the POST VALVE currently used in the market will be replaced with the new design without chamfered edges, or will be gradually replaced with new POST VALVE. To ensure the stability and consistency of the supply, we will continue to provide the oxygen regulator produced according to the existing customer requirements.

Sunset Healthcare Solutions emphasizes once again that **users must observe whether the POST VALVE has a chamfered edge before using it.** The newly designed POST VALVE cannot be properly mated/sealed with most regulators manufactured in the past 20 years. The combination of the redesigned POST VALVES from Sherwood and Tekno and the vast majority of regulator brands currently on the market poses a serious risk of oxygen leakage.

Regards
Sunset Healthcare Solutions