



Vacuum Equipment Precautions 1

Be sure to read this before handling.

Design / Selection

Warning

1. Confirm the specifications.

Products represented in this catalog are designed only for use in compressed air systems (including vacuum).

Do not operate at pressures or temperatures, etc., beyond the range of specifications, as this can cause damage or malfunction. (Refer to the specifications.)

Please contact SMC when using a fluid other than compressed air (including vacuum).

We do not guarantee against any damage if the product is used outside of the specification range.

2. Safe designs should be developed, which account for the possibility of accidents resulting from a drop in vacuum pressure due to power failure or trouble with the air supply, etc.

If vacuum pressure drops and there is a loss of vacuum pad adsorption force, workpieces being carried may fall, causing human injury or damage to machinery. Sufficient safety measures should be implemented, such as drop prevention, to avoid any accidents.

3. Follow vacuum specifications for vacuum switching valves and vacuum release valves.

If non-vacuum equipment is installed in a vacuum piping, vacuum leakage will occur. Therefore, select only equipment for vacuum specifications.

4. Select an ejector which has a suitable suction flow rate.

<When there is vacuum leakage from the workpiece or the piping>

If the ejector's suction flow rate is too low, the adsorption will be poor.

<When piping is long or the diameter is large>

The adsorption response time will delay due to the increased volume of the piping.

Select an ejector with a suitable suction flow rate by referring to the technical data.

5. If the suction flow rate is too high, setting of vacuum switch will become difficult.

Setting the vacuum switch when absorbing a small (few millimeter) workpiece will sometimes become difficult, if the selected ejector has a high suction rate and there is a small pressure difference when absorbing and releasing the workpiece.

6. When two or more pads are piped to one ejector, if one pad releases its workpiece, the other pads will also release.

When one pad releases its workpiece, there is a drop in vacuum pressure which causes the other pad to release its workpiece as well.

7. Do not disassemble the product or make any modifications, including additional machining.

It may cause human injury and/or an accident.

When disassembling or assembling the product for the purpose of replacing parts, etc., be certain to follow the operation manual or catalogs.

8. Check valve

SMC can issue no guarantees regarding the maintenance of workpiece adsorption when using check valves. Take separate safety measures to prevent workpieces from dropping in the case of an electrical power outage, etc.

Please consult with SMC when using check valves as a means of preventing interference caused by the exhaust from nearby ejectors.

Caution

1. Mounting the suction filter

Because the suction of vacuum equipment acts not only on workpieces but also on dust or water droplets in the surrounding atmosphere, steps must be taken to prevent their penetration into the equipment's interior.

Even when using equipment equipped with filters, if there is a considerable amount of dust in the environment, use a separately ordered large-size filter as well.

If there is a possibility of water droplets being sucked in by the vacuum, use a drain separator for vacuum.

2. The maximum vacuum pressure of the vacuum ejector is affected by the atmospheric pressure of the operating environment.

As atmospheric pressure changes based on altitude, climate, etc., the actual maximum vacuum pressure may not reach the value listed in the specifications.

3. For information on related items, such as directional control equipment and drive equipment, refer to the caution sections in each respective catalog.

4. Do not use the product in an environment that exposes it to vibration. If the product is used in such an environment, we can offer a lock nut type product to prevent it from loosening. Please contact SMC for model number.

Mounting

Warning

1. Operation manual

Install the products and operate them only after reading the operation manual carefully and understanding its contents. Also, keep the manual where it can be referred to as necessary.

2. Ensure sufficient space for maintenance activities.

When installing the products, allow access for maintenance.

3. Tighten threads with the proper tightening torque.

When installing the products, follow the listed torque specifications.

4. Do not obstruct the exhaust port of the ejector.

If the exhaust port is obstructed when mounted, a vacuum will not be generated. Also, do not obstruct the exhaust port with the goal of removing the workpiece. It may cause damage to the equipment.



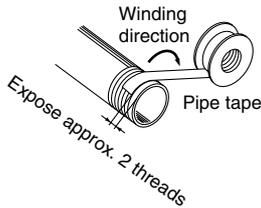
Vacuum Equipment Precautions 2

Be sure to read this before handling.

Piping

⚠ Caution

1. Refer to the Fittings and Tubing Precautions (Best Pneumatics No. 6) for handling one-touch fittings.
2. Preparation before piping
Before piping is connected, it should be thoroughly blown out with air (flushing) or washed to remove chips, cutting oil and other debris from inside the pipe.
3. Wrapping of pipe tape
When screwing piping or fittings into ports, ensure that chips from the pipe threads or sealing material do not enter the piping. Also, if pipe tape is used, leave 1.5 to 2 thread ridges exposed at the end of the threads.



4. Use piping with an adequate effective area.
Select equipment and piping for the vacuum side which has an adequate effective area so that the ejector's maximum suction flow rate can be accommodated by the piping. Also, make sure that there are no unnecessary restrictions or leaks, etc., along the course of the piping. Furthermore, design of the air supply should be performed while taking into consideration the ejector's maximum air consumption and the air consumption of other pneumatic circuits.
5. Avoid disorganized piping.
Piping which is direct and of the shortest possible length should be used for both the vacuum and supply sides. Disorganized piping should be avoided. Unnecessary length increases the piping volume, and thus increases the response time.
6. Use piping with a large effective sectional area on the exhaust side of the ejector.
If the exhaust piping is restrictive, there will be a decline in the ejector's performance.
7. Be certain that there are no crushed areas in the piping due to damage or bending.

Air Supply

⚠ Warning

1. Type of fluids
Please consult with SMC when using the product in applications other than compressed air.
2. When there is a large amount of drainage.
Compressed air containing a large amount of drainage can cause malfunction of pneumatic equipment. An air dryer or water separator should be installed upstream from filters.

Air Supply

⚠ Warning

3. Drain flushing
If condensation in the water separator and drain bowl is not emptied on a regular basis, the bowl will overflow and allow the condensation to enter the compressed air lines. It causes malfunction of pneumatic equipment.
If the drain bowl is difficult to check and remove, installation of a drain bowl with an auto drain option is recommended.
For compressed air quality, refer to Best Pneumatics No. 5.
4. Use clean air.
Do not use compressed air that contains chemicals, synthetic oils including organic solvents, salt or corrosive gases, etc., as it can cause damage or malfunction.

Operating Environment

⚠ Warning

1. Do not use in an atmosphere having corrosive gases, chemicals, sea water, water, water steam, or where there is direct contact with any of these.
2. Do not use in a place subject to heavy vibration and/or shock.
3. Do not use in an environment where flammable gas or explosive gas exists. Usage may cause a fire or explosion. The products do not have an explosion proof construction.
4. The valve should not be exposed to prolonged sunlight. Use a protective cover.
5. Remove any sources of excessive heat.
6. In locations where there is contact with spatter from water, oil, solder, etc., take suitable protective measures.
7. In cases where the vacuum unit is surrounded by other equipment, etc., or the unit is energized for an extended time, take measures to exhaust excess heat so that the temperature should be within specifications.

⚠ Caution

1. Under certain conditions, the exhaust of the vacuum ejector may generate intermittent noises, and vacuum pressure may be uneven.
Using the ejector under these conditions will not result in decreased performance, but if the intermittent noise becomes a nuisance, or there is an adverse effect on the operation of the vacuum pressure switch, try lowering or raising the supply pressure of the vacuum ejector to find a supply pressure level at which the intermittent noise ceases.

ZA
ZX
ZR
ZM
ZMA
ZQ
ZH
ZU
ZL
ZY□
ZF□
ZP□
SP
ZCUK
AMJ
AMV
AEP
HEP

Related Equipment



Vacuum Equipment Precautions 3

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Maintenance

Warning

1. Perform maintenance inspection according to the procedures indicated in the operation manual.

If handled improperly, malfunction and damage of machinery or equipment may occur.

2. Maintenance work

If handled improperly, compressed air can be dangerous. Assembly, handling, repair and element replacement of pneumatic systems should be performed by a knowledgeable and experienced person.

3. Drain flushing

Remove drainage regularly from the water separator, air filters, vacuum drain separator, etc.

4. Removal of equipment, and supply/exhaust of compressed air

When components are removed, first confirm that measures are in place to prevent workpieces from dropping, run-away equipment, etc. Then, cut off the supply pressure and electric power, and exhaust all compressed air from the system using the residual pressure release function.

When machinery is restarted after remounting or replacement, first confirm that measures are in place to prevent lurching of actuators, etc. Then, confirm that the equipment is operating normally.

5. Clean suction filters and silencers on a regular basis.

The performance of an ejector will deteriorate due to clogged filters and silencers. High flow filters should be used, especially in dusty locations.

6. The vacuum pad is disposable. Replace it on a regular basis.

Continued use of the vacuum pad will cause wear and tear on the adsorption surface, and the exterior dimensions will gradually get smaller and smaller. As the pad diameter gets smaller, lifting force will decrease, though adsorption is possible.

It is extremely difficult to provide advice on the frequency of vacuum pad exchange. This is because there are numerous factors at work, including surface roughness, operating environment (temperature, humidity, ozone, solvents, etc.), and operating conditions (vacuum pressure, workpiece weight, pressing force of the vacuum pad on the workpiece, presence or absence of a buffer, etc.).

Thus, the customer should decide when the vacuum pad should be exchanged, based on its condition at time of initial use.