

## South korea battery safety

The batteries involved in a fatal June 24 factory fire in South Korea were lithium metal batteries, not lithium-ion batteries.

A deadly fire at a South Korean lithium battery factory in June broke out as the company raced to meet a deadline without taking action to address signs of dangerous quality failures, police...

South Korean authorities ordered a halt on Wednesday to the operations of a manufacturer of lithium batteries after a fire killed 23 people, as they investigate three company officials for ...

A deadly factory blaze has revived concerns over battery safety in South Korea, a key global supplier of lithium-ion cells used in everything from electric vehicles to energy storage...

Manufacture Aricell, which also produces batteries for South Korea's military, had failed a quality inspection in April and subsequently increased production to make up the backlog, police official Kim Jong-min said on Friday.

It hired temporary and unskilled workers, contributing to a jump in product defect rates, including overheating of finished batteries, but did not take action to contain safety risks, Kim said.

The company was trying to produce 5,000 batteries a day and "started excessive manufacturing", police added.

Further investigations showed that Aricell had passed previous quality inspections by manipulating test samples since it started supplying battery products to the military in 2021, South Korean news agency Yonhap reported.

The Ministry of Employment and Labor and police asked for an arrest warrant for three officials of Aricell, including CEO Park Soon-kwan.

Police further said that the company did not comply with factory safety laws, including a lack of emergency exits and inadequate safety education for employees who did not speak Korean.

Security camera footage showed the fire sparking from a stack of batteries and quickly engulfing the factory where 35,000 lithium batteries were stored.

The spread of toxic smoke probably rendered workers unconscious within seconds, fire officials have said.

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