



## NEWS RELEASE

### KAISER ALUMINUM ORDERS TRAVELING HOMOGENIZING FURNACE FOR NEWARK OHIO WORKS

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#### For Immediate Release

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

**Kaiser Aluminum Newark Works has purchased a traveling log homogenizing furnace for their plant in Heath, Ohio.** The system will process 2x/6x/7x alloy aluminum logs of diameters typically ranging from 6 to 29 inches (152 to 727 mm). The furnace will be equipped with SECO/WARWICK's patented adjustable airflow baffling system to control airflow distribution throughout the load and improve temperature uniformity.



#### PATENTED MOVABLE BAFFLES

SECO/WARWICK will provide the patented movable baffle design or small load height system. This patented design will increase furnace performance, when less than the maximum size loads are processed. The baffle position will be adjustable according to the load height to effectively block any open space above the actual load being processed. The blocking action forces the recirculated air to pass through the openings between the layers of logs rather than taking the path of least resistance over the top layer of logs. The blocking results in a higher airstream velocity through the logs, which creates faster heat transfer and improved load temperature uniformity.

#### How It Works



One side of the stainless steel baffle is connected to the stationary horizontal baffle through a hinge arrangement. The other side of the baffle is connected through a linkage arrangement to a roof mounted electric screwjack. Each screwjack includes limit switches to sense full up and full down positions. In operation, the baffle will be automatically located, after the furnace is in position and the cycle recipe is selected. The baffle should be lowered until its bottom edge is approximately 1" above the top layer of logs. Since the baffle linkage includes a flexible connection, it is nearly impossible to damage the load by lowering the baffle too far. A limit switch will be interlocked with baffle position such

that the baffle must be raised to its full up position after the completion of a cycle and before the furnace can be moved. SECO/WARWICK has been utilizing the movable baffle design since 1984.

## Traveling Furnace Advantages

**Limited plant floor space** - The utilization of Traveling furnace provides twice the loading area in half the floor space, since the furnace moves from one loading area laterally to the second loading area.

**Loading and unloading consideration-** The Traveling furnace load base is at floor level and the load base can be loaded or stacked with a fork truck. Fork trucks can be used because overhead cranes are not needed. The potential of a billet rolling off an above floor level load car is reduced. The loading and unloading of the billet bases is accomplished in less time. Placing thermocouples in the load is made easier since the load is at floor level.

**Energy Savings** - With the conventional car bottom type of furnaces, the load car is removed from the furnace, unloaded and then reloaded, and is then driven back into the furnace. During this time, the furnace interior can lose a significant amount of heat, so to bring the furnace back up to temperature will take additional time and heat input.

**Cycle Time Reduction** - When the new Traveling furnace has completed the cycle, the furnace doors open and the furnace travels from one loading base to the next. The first base can be cooled, and then re-loaded while the other load is under heat. The result is a faster load changeover with reduced heat loss from the furnace. Once the furnace has moved into position on the adjacent load base, the heating cycle begins. With the Traveling furnace design, a reduction in overall cycle time can be accomplished, compared with car furnace designs.

## About Kaiser Aluminum

Kaiser Aluminum is a leading producer of fabricated aluminum products for aerospace and high strength, general engineering, automotive, and custom industrial applications. Repeatedly acknowledged as "Best in Class" among its global customer base, Kaiser Aluminum's 11 fabrication plants typically produce and ship more than 500 million pounds of product annually. Visit [www.kaiseraluminum.com](http://www.kaiseraluminum.com).

**SECO/WARWICK Worldwide** manufactures industrial heat processing equipment including heat treat furnaces, vacuum furnace technology, atmosphere generators and aluminum reverb melting and holding systems. SECO/WARWICK provides heat treating equipment and services worldwide for customers involved with primary aluminum, aluminum recycling, automotive, aerospace, commercial heat treating, HVAC, electronics, lighting, medical equipment and nuclear applications.

The globally integrated organization includes SECO/WARWICK Corp. (USA), Retech Systems LLC (USA), SECO/WARWICK S.A. (Poland), ELTERMA S.A. (Poland), SECO WARWICK Allied Pvt. Ltd. (India) and SECO/WARWICK Industrial Furnace Co. Ltd. (China).

The company has over 1000 employees worldwide, and is an industry leader in industrial heat processing equipment and processes. More information can be found at [www.secowarwick.com](http://www.secowarwick.com).

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