Managing Chemical Substances

All chemical substances possess inherent properties that offer outstanding benefits. At the same time, however, chemical substances can harm people's health and place a burden on the environment if they are misused.

Fuji Electric manages chemical substances appropriately and works to reduce their emission.

Managing and Reducing the Use of Chemical Substances

Fuji Electric set a goal of reducing its environmental emissions of chemical substances by 40% compared with levels recorded in fiscal 2000 by fiscal 2010. This target covers emissions of chemical Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)*1 Law-designated substances and for atmospheric emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in accordance with the voluntary action plan put forward by Japan's four electrical and electronics industry organizations*2 based on the Air Pollution Control Act. Emissions of PRTR-designated substances in fiscal 2010 were down 40.4% compared with levels recorded in fiscal 2000. Atmospheric emissions of VOCs were reduced by 62.2%. In each case, Fuji Electric successfully achieved its targets.

Since fiscal 2010, Fuji Electric has worked to achieve a voluntary 10.0% reduction from fiscal 2010 levels by fiscal 2014, based on our Environmental Management 3-Year Rolling Plan. We achieved this target both for PRTR-designated substance emissions, which were reduced by 18.5%, and atmospheric emissions of VOCs, which were reduced by 13.4%.

Initiatives to reduce the use of chemical substances are to switch to alternatives while working to overcoming issues related to production technologies and quality, to install equipment enabling recycling of chemical substances and to devise work process improvements to reduce emissions. Additionally, records of examples of initiatives at each production base are spread horizontally in work processes at other bases.

Overseas, we have moved ahead with surveys*3 of PRTR-designated substances and VOC emissions since 2012 and will work to control emission increases.

Furthermore, we have already ceased usage of all 20 controlled substances listed in Annex A and Annex B of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

*1 Act on Confirmation, etc. of Release Amounts of Specific Chemical Substances in the Environment and Promotion of Improvements to the Management Thereof

*2 The four electrical and electronics industry organizations were The Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA); the Communications and Information Network Association of Japan (CIAJ); the Japan Business Machine and Information System Industries Association (JBMIA); and the Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association (JEMA).

*3 Overseas in fiscal 2014, emissions of PRTR-designated substances were 1,240.2 tons and VOC atmospheric emissions 1,351.7 tons

Amount of Emissions of PRTR-Designated Substances and VOC Atmospheric Emissions in Japan

Material Balance of PRTR-Designated Substances in Japan

Note: Wastewater is properly treated using wastewater treatment equipment at all production bases, and wastewater standards have been met. Accordingly, there have been no discharges of heavy metals or other substances into water environments that exceed standards.
Managing Chemical Substances Contained in Products

We hold regular liaison meetings on a four-monthly basis among design and development divisions and an annual Company-wide seminar to promote the sharing of information with respect to a variety of issues including trends in statutory and regulatory requirements. Through these means, the Company works diligently to ensure that products, which contain chemical substances, comply with all pertinent legislation worldwide.

In addition, we determine all chemical substance risks across the entire production process including the use of raw materials in the manufacture of products on an individual works basis. At the same time, steps are taken to put in place an optimal management framework.

In fiscal 2014, approximately 30 employees mainly comprising coordinators responsible for managing products that contain chemical substances at all production bases in Japan participated in each liaison meeting. In addition to sharing the latest information on environmental regulations in such global regions and countries as the EU and China, these meetings provided the forum to reinforce the Company’s commitment to strictly adhere to appropriate compliance measures. Overseas factories are appropriately handling chemical substances under the direction of mother factories in Japan.