

Sanyo Denki's Environmental Protection Efforts



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Mankind has been growing while consuming large quantities of resources cultivated by the earth and discharging large quantities of waste. The price we are paying for this includes the destruction of the ozone layer, global warming, and other great damages to the earth, the mother of all life forms.

Under these circumstances, efforts are being made to reform the traditional social system. These efforts have been culminated in the keyword "sustainable development" stated in the "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development," adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit), which was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. "Sustainable" signifies our will and responsibility to take over the rich global environment that we enjoy for the sake of our descendants.

In response to the "Rio Declaration", the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) began setting up international standards common to the world with regards to environmental management. In 1996, ISO established ISO 14001: Environmental Management Systems (a standard for building a mechanism for continuous improvement of environmental performance).

In Japan, the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) announced its Global Environment Charter, appealing to industry to address global environmental issues. The Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association, to which Sanyo Denki belongs, set up a "Voluntary Action Plan on the Environment: Electric Machinery" in November 1996, and all member corporations are jointly working hard to implement this plan.

Sanyo Denki has defined "Environmental Protection" as one of the top-priority challenges of management. The company set up an Committee of measure for Environmental in August 1994 and began addressing environmental issues. Under its managerial philosophy of "For society and the natural environment we will help preserve the global environment and contribute to the prosperity of mankind through our corporate activities," the company is committed to developing and producing products in an attempt to create the kinds of technology described below:

- Technology for protecting the global environment
- Technology for protecting human health and safety
- Technology for using new sources of energy and conserving energy.

Obtaining Certification under ISO 14001

In 1996, Sanyo Denki's first target for ISO Certification was the Aoki Works and an "Environmental Management System" was set up and implemented. Its second Mid-term Management Plan (1998-2000) specified that the company's policy was to Obtaining Certification for all its works.

In March 1999, the Aoki Works Obtaining Certification. The Fujiyama Works and the

Technology Center are aiming to Obtaining Certification in December.

Each works has set its own target for cutting power consumption and is committed to energy saving activities. These works are also working hard to cut oil and liquid wastes and other wastes, cut the consumption of heavy oil , LPG, and copy paper, and separately collect and recycle discharged wastes, with objectives and targets set for each works.

Design and development of environmental protection products

For product design and development, the company will establish a "product assessment program" and will proceed with the environmental protection design of mainstream products of all divisions by 2001.

With regards to size and weight reduction (resource-saving), efficiency enhancement, life elongation, recycling, inhibition of hazardous chemical use, and other factors, the company will evaluate the environmental effects of different stages of the product (raw materials, assembly, distribution, use, collection, recycling, and scrapping), make changes to the design, and reduce hazardous environmental effects accordingly.

Promoting environmental protection projects

The company has developed photovoltaic power generation systems based on natural energy and has been committed to environmental protection projects in an attempt to provide the general public with know-how about the company's power supply units that have contributed to the communications and computer industries.

In addition, in developing products at all divisions, the company has been committed to increasing efficiency, reducing size and weight, and elongating life spans, while regarding environmental protection as the company's strategy in product planning.

By Obtaining Certification under the ISO 9000 series, workplaces can get themselves recognized for their commitment to quality. To this end, Sanyo Denki can have third party confirmation of Sanyo Denki's environmental protection efforts, thus obtaining an objective evaluation.

Customers are already requiring that Sanyo Denki be compliant with green procurement in an environmental protection manner. For companies to remain competitive, it is no longer enough to develop "good, user-friendly products at low cost." Environmental protection products must also be developed.

..... Attempts to develop new technologies are already under way.
