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Prompt Response to Increasingly Demanding Regulations about Chemical Substances in Products

Pioneering in Establishing Systems to Manage Chemical Substances Contained in Products

Regulations to control chemical substances contained in products, such as EU's RoHS directive and REACH* regulation, have recently become increasingly demanding. Similar regulations have been enacted in other countries such as China, Korea and Canada as well. This global trend indicates that the management of chemical substances contained in products have now become an important challenge for companies.

The OKI Group has always been a pioneer in the management of chemical substances in products. In fact, it established and implemented some management systems for chemical substances long before the above regulations. One of such system was the Product Assessment System established in 1998. OKI's management of chemical substances contained in products is highly effective because the same criteria for operational management is shared among all group companies. It is also notable that we developed and implemented original information systems early on in our efforts to manage chemical substances to order to pursue preciseness in information. We have repeatedly improved these systems in response to the enactment and revisions of relevant regulations. Since the enforcement of REACH required us to understand and manage information on chemical substances throughout our supply chain, we developed a new system called COINServ-COSMOS-R/R (hereafter referred to as COSMOS-R/R) in fiscal 2008.COSMOS-R/R, that has been used within the group since 2008, helps users cope with Green Procurement (the avoidance of any materials containing hazardous substances) and answer inquiries from customers. This system has been sold to outsiders since 2009.

* REACH(Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals) regulation : A new European regulation to be applied to all companies manufacturing and importing chemicals in the European Union. It requires manufacturers / importers to register and evaluate any chemicals subject thereto. In addition, they need to obtain authorization from the relevant authorities about the use of substances of very high concern. The regulation also restrains the use of substances with higher risks.

Ensuring Conformity to Regulations

Regulations to manage chemical substances in products are often revised or tightened as additional substances become subject to control. The OKI Group has promptly revised the OKI Guidelines for Managing Chemical Substances in Products, a set of rules to handle chemical substances in all business processes from design to delivery, and the OKI Green Procurement Standards, a guideline to study information on chemical substances, whenever needed. In fiscal 2010, we started operating a system to manage chemical substances in conformity with REACH and other regulations. This system also covers chemical substances handled by our suppliers. As the number of chemical substances to be managed has rapidly increased, we added some indicators to the OKI Green Procurement Standards. Among them are the analytical estimation of the purchased components and materials, and the chemical substance management systems of our suppliers. We will start the full-scale implementation of these guidelines after a trial with some suppliers.

Promoting the Efficiency in Surveys of Chemical Substances Contained in Products

The functions of COSMOS-R/R have also been improved in conformity with the revisions of applicable laws and regulations. It now supports the latest unified format set by the Japan Green Procurement Survey Standardization Initiative (JGPSSI) and the Joint Article Management Promotion Consortium (JAMP). Furthermore, a new feature to allow linkage with JAMP-IT* was added to the system in February 2011. JAMP-IT is an information transferring infrastructure promoted by JAMP. JAMP-IT is designed to streamline the processes of obtaining and providing information on chemical substances in materials, components and products, and enhance compliance through the distribution of up-to-date information. The linkage of JAMP-IT and COSMOS-R/R allows the users of the latter to obtain chemical information thorough the Internet, and thus improve the efficiency of their surveys. We will continue to ensure safe and secure manufacturing by appropriately maintaining and operating these systems to manage chemical substances.

* JAMP-IT : A chemical information transferring infrastructure comprised of a global portal (GP) and an application service (AS). The former features a system management function, a consolidated index, and a function to process two or more requests for information exchange from different companies collectively. The features of the latter include an interface on the screen that allows direct operation by users, and a data base for chemical substance survey sheets.

● Linkage of JAMP-IT and COSMOS-R/R