

Using Core Technologies to Manage Environmental Loads COINServ-Cosmos, an Information System for Chemical Substances Contained in Products

COINServ-Cosmos is the OKI Group's information system for chemical substances contained in products. It is one of the Group's environmental solutions. It is based on an in-house system built and operated by OKI to minimize the environmental burden of its products. As a user of this system, OKI is continually working to enhance and expand its functions.

Development of In-House System - COSMOS

One of the most important priorities for manufacturers today is the management of chemical substances used in products, and the elimination of toxic substances. The growing importance of this area reflects the tightening of regulations and the establishment of legally mandated systems, such as the RoHS Directive*.

OKI was among the first manufacturers to recognize the importance of this issue. In the second half of the 1990s, it began to conduct green procurement surveys of its suppliers, and to compile a database of chemical substances in purchased parts and materials. In 1999, OKI built and started to operate an in-house information system for chemical substances used in its products. Known as the "COSMOS" system, it is designed to minimize or eliminate the use of environmental load substances from the design stage, and to ensure proper disclosure and compliance with laws, regulations and customer requirements.

*** RoHS Directive:**

The initials stand for "Restriction on the use of certain Hazardous Substances" in electrical and electronic equipment. Members of the European Union (EU) have enforced the directive since July 1, 2006, resulting in a prohibition on the use of specific hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment.

Integration of Product Data Base with Design Systems

The purpose of the COSMOS system is to make effective use of data obtained through green procurement surveys. Using network technology, which is one of OKI's core fields of expertise, it integrates a chemical substance information database with product design systems. The system automatically calculates the total amounts of chemical substances in each product, including substances added during in-house processing, based on the parts used, processing

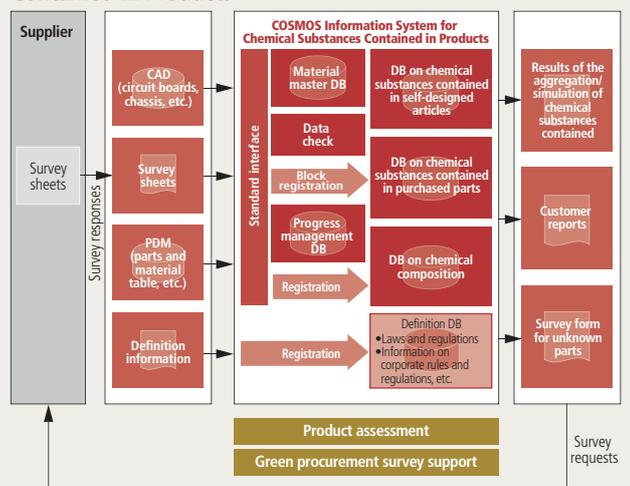
Employee Perspective

Product Planning, COINServ-COSMOS **Yoshiaki Kanai**



In the year ending March 2007, we have adapted our system to comply with the latest survey format (Version 3) and the guidelines established under the Japan Green Procurement Survey Standardization Initiative (JGPSSI) for the management of chemical substances contained in products. We use OKI's experience of environmental activities to provide operational support, including advice on how to proceed with green procurement, to customers using the system.

Overview of Information System for Chemical Substances Contained in Products



conditions from the design stage and other factors. It can also verify whether the product complies with requirements. Moreover, the COSMOS system has been configured to output information in industry-standard formats, including survey forms for suppliers, reports to customers, and the survey formats stipulated under the Japan Green Procurement Survey Standardization Initiative (JGPSSI).

External Sales Launched in Response to Customer Demand

When these initiatives were described in a presentation at an external environmental seminar, OKI received numerous inquiries from companies that were eager to use the system. This led in 2003 to the development of a commercial product, COINServ-COSMOS. At a time when Japanese and overseas governments are continually implementing and revising regulations, it is not easy to comply with these and other requirements concerning the management of substances used in products. COINServ-COSMOS is based on a system that OKI itself is continually using and updating, and it has earned an excellent reputation for its flexibility and suitability.

OKI is determined to meet all of its environmental responsibilities as a corporate citizen, and to work in partnership with its customers to reduce the environmental burden of products. This commitment is reflected in continuing efforts to improve the quality and functions of COINServ-COSMOS.