

Managing Chemical Substances and Environmental Risk

The raw materials for Murata's products contain a vast number of chemical substances. Accordingly, we endeavor to control and reduce emissions of hazardous chemical substances during production. In addition, we consider pollution arising from chemical substances to be a serious risk, which we strive to avoid.

Management and Emissions Reduction for Chemical Substances

Management of 354 PRTR-Designated Substances

Among the various chemical substances used in Murata's production processes, 354 are included in the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR). Of these, the Murata Group in Japan handled 24 substances, including toluene and xylene, in quantities exceeding one ton.

Reducing VOC Atmospheric Emissions through the Introduction of Equipment

In fiscal 2006, Murata operated nine exhaust-gas treatment units, including regenerative thermal oxidizers (RTOs) at its Yasu and Yokaichi Plants. This enabled us to set a target of 3% or more reduction in VOC atmospheric emissions compared with fiscal 2000 levels. Although initially the introduction of this equipment allowed the Company to attain reductions as planned, increased production has led to an increase of 10% over fiscal 2000 (an 18 percentage point decrease from the previous fiscal year).

In fiscal 2007, we are aiming to bring annual VOC atmospheric emissions back to fiscal 2000 levels. We will achieve this by reinforcing process management and promoting strategies to restrain usage volumes and atmospheric emissions.

Cutting Back Atmospheric Emissions of PFCs

Murata's production processes also emit PFCs, which are greenhouse gases. In fiscal 2006, in pursuit of a goal of a 50% or more reduction compared with fiscal 2002 levels, we attained a decrease of 30%, or 96 tons. We will continue our endeavors toward this target.

Avoiding Environmental Risk

Measures to Prevent Environmental Accidents and Pollution

Murata is aware that among the various potential environmental risks involved in its activities that chemical contamination is of particular concern. We endeavor to avoid such eventualities through preemptive preventive measures, training and other strategies. We also promote risk reduction countermeasures targeting such environmental risks as waste and related problems.

In Japan and overseas, Murata consigns industrial waste disposal to legally authorized specialist contractors for proper treatment. In addition, we conduct regular site visits to confirm the management status of disposal sites.

In fiscal 2006, Murata recorded neither environmental accidents nor violations of environmental standards.

Voluntary Standards for Prevention of Environmental Accidents and Pollution

- 1. Prohibition against Underground Storage Tanks**
In principle, storage tanks for fuels, organic solvents, acids, alkalis and waste liquids and wastewater tanks for treating wastewater will be located above ground. If it is unavoidable that a tank be placed underground, it will be a double-walled tank.
- 2. Permeation Barrier Coating**
Locations where such fluids as fuels, organic solvents, acids, and alkalis, as well as waste oil, are handled will be provided with a bed made of a permeation barrier coating or stainless steel.
- 3. Prohibition of Underground Piping**
Pipes for transporting such fluids as fuels, organic solvents, acids and alkalis, as well as waste liquids, will be located above ground.
- 4. Emergency Containment Structure**
Workplaces where liquids are received or where waste liquids are discharged to or from tank trucks or the like will have a structure for immediately containing any leakage if an accident occurs.

About VOCs

VOCs are chemical substances that cause atmospheric pollution through photochemical reactions generating oxidants or suspended particulate matter.



Regenerative thermal oxidizers (RTOs)

About PFCs

PFCs are greenhouse gasses. Murata does not use any PFCs targeted for reduction under the Kyoto Protocol, but is endeavoring to reduce those slated for management as chemical substances with detrimental environmental impact.



Web Data

- Reduction of Chemical Substances with Environmental Impact
- Progress with Soil and Groundwater Contamination Surveys and Remediation

▶ <http://www.murata.com/csr/environment/10.html>

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