

Obligation to provide information

on chemical substances contained
in home appliances and PCs
from July 1, 2006



Points of regulation revision

Based on the "Law for the Promotion of the Effective Utilization of Resources," Ordinance of the Ministry to demand Design for Environment (DfE) of business entities by indicating judgment criteria was amended. The following regulations will start on July 1, 2006.

- i) Manufacturers and import sellers will be obliged to provide information on chemical substances contained in the products.
- ii) Promotion of DfE, required of only manufacturers, will now be required also of import sellers.

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

I. Information provision on chemical substances contained in products

1. Objectives of the regulation

This regulation is aimed at promoting the use of recyclable resources and parts through by providing information on the specific chemical substances contained in electrical and electronic equipment. Such information will improve the management of the specific chemical substances by business entities at every phase of product supply chain and lifecycle, while facilitating consumers' understanding.

2. Obligated targets

Manufacturers and import sellers of the target products

3. Target products (the following 7 specified resources-reutilized products)

i) personal computers (PCs); ii) unit-type air conditioners; iii) television sets; iv) refrigerators; v) washing machines;



4. Target chemical substances

i) lead; ii) mercury; iii) chromium VI; iv) cadmium; v) polybrominated biphenyl; vi) polybrominated diphenyl ether

5. Information provision methods

Manufacturers and import sellers of the target products shall properly manage the specific chemical substances contained in the target products. When the content rate of those substances exceeds the standard value*, the following measures are required to be taken:

- placing content mark on the equipment body and containers;
- placing mark and chemical substance symbols in catalogs, etc.; and
- providing information on the presence of the specific chemical substances on the websites.



Meaning of the mark

It indicates that the specific chemical substances should be managed in the supply chain for proper recycling.

* Standard value of content rate: cadmium—0.01wt%; the other substances—0.1wt%

☆★For more details, please refer to JIS C 0950☆☆★

- Refer to JIS C 0950 on the website of the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC)
- Content mark is available for free downloading from the website of JISC and the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA)

II. Promotion of DfE required of import sellers

○While only manufacturers have been under an obligation of the promotion of DfE, import sellers will now also be under the obligation.

[Specified resource-saving products]

Target products for the reduction of used goods through efforts of "rationalization of the use of raw materials," "promotion of the use for long period," etc.

Target products

- i) PCs; ii) unit-type air conditioners; iii) television sets; iv) refrigerators;
- v) washing machines; vi) microwave ovens; vii) clothes driers

Efforts required

The following efforts are required by the Ordinance of the Ministry stipulating judgment criteria for each product item. For more details, please refer to the Ordinance of the Ministry.

- rationalization of the use of raw materials
- promotion of the use for long period
- securing of safety pertaining to repairs, etc.
- securing of opportunities for repair, etc.
- consideration of safety, etc.
- technology improvement
- prior assessment
- provision of information
- innovative use of packaging materials, etc.

[Specified resources-reutilized products]

Target products for efforts to use recyclable resources and parts of the part or the whole of the end-of-life products

Target products

- i) PCs; ii) unit-type air conditioners; iii) copying machines; vi) television sets; v) refrigerators; vi) washing machines; vii) microwave ovens; viii) clothes driers

Efforts required

The following efforts are required by the Ordinance of the Ministry stipulating judgment criteria for each product item. For more details, please refer to the Ordinance of the Ministry.

- innovative use of raw materials
- innovative structure
- innovative sorting
- securing of safety pertaining to treatment
- consideration of safety, etc.
- technology improvement
- prior assessment
- innovative use of packaging materials, etc.
- management of content substances
- information provision (refer to I in the above)

FAQ

- Q** The "Judgment Criteria Concerning the Promotion of the Utilization of Recyclable Resources or Reusable Parts" prescribes "chemical substances contained in product parts, etc. and specified in the separate table will be subject to management by figuring out the category and content rate and by taking other measures." What kinds of specific management measures are required in addition to the figuring out of the substances for the information provision prescribed by JIS C 0950?
- A** Management measures of the specific chemical substances include improvement of internal organization system, liaison of material procurement section and designing section, establishment/management of database for those chemical substances, etc.
- Q** When the specific chemical substances are contained in a manual, software media (CD, DVD, etc.), record media (memory card, USB memory, etc.), packaging materials, buffer materials, etc., is the marking by the content mark required on the equipment body?
- A** The content mark is not required on the equipment body because the articles mentioned in the question are not the target items, that is the equipment body.
- Q** When the specific chemical substances are contained in consumables, is the marking by the content mark required on the equipment body?
- A** Marking for the presence of the specific chemicals is aimed at managing them properly in the stages of reuse/recycling. Consumables such as batteries should be replaced before the product is disposed of (or reused/recycled).
Accordingly, consumables, including those enclosed before shipment, are not targets of the information provision.
- Q** Is the content mark unnecessary when the production of the designated products is less than the certain amount?
- A** Marking by the content mark is required by all manufacturers and import sellers regardless of the amount of production or the number of imported/sold products in the business year.
When business entities obliged to mark products with the content mark and their production/sales fulfill the requirements prescribed by the Cabinet Order of the Law for the Promotion of the Effective Utilization of Resources (the number of production or import sales of the designated products is exceeding the certain number), and when their efforts are extremely insufficient according to the ministerial judgment criteria, METI is able to give advice or direction to such business entities.
- Q** What is the green mark?
- A** An optional mark for electrical and electronic equipment that can be used in either of the following cases: i) content rates of all the specified chemical substances are equal to or less than the standard value of content rates, ii) parts of the specified chemicals are exempted from content marking and the content rate of the other specified chemicals are equal to or less than the standard value of content rates. For more details of marking, please see the website of JEITA (<http://home.jeita.or.jp/eps>).
- Q** Is there any points that consumers should note?
- A** Do not smear or peel off the mark during the use of the product. The purpose of the marking is to appropriately sort out and manage the products at the stage of reuse/recycling.



Contacts

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<http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/recycle>

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