Holding Environmental Basic Guidance / Liaison Meetings

In Japan, the Mitsubishi Electric Group provides Environmental Basic Guidance and holds Liaison Meetings for key environmental personnel. Environmental Basic Guidance is intended for those who have been in charge of environmental administration for one to three years. It is designed to educate participants about environmental management, waste management, chemicals control, energy savings, and risk communications. Key Environmental Personnel Liaison Meetings are intended for those who have completed the above-mentioned program, to provide the latest case examples regarding environmental management, waste management, and energy conservation. In these meetings, participants also engage in group discussions so that individual case studies can be adapted and applied to their own workplaces.

In fiscal 2020, Environmental Basic Guidance was implemented at four business bases (Fukuyama Works, Nakatsugawa Works, Shizuoka Works, and the Head Office), and Key Environmental Personnel Liaison Meetings were held at three business sites (Energy Systems Center, Kansai Branch Office, and the Head Office).

Developing Nature Protection Leaders

In fields adjacent to business sites, Mitsubishi Electric Outdoor Classrooms are held, providing an opportunity for both participants and the employees who play the role of leaders to experience nature. This directive aims to promote awareness towards coexistence with nature and develop the ability to act for improving the environment. Volunteer employees are trained as leaders in planning and executing the program. Through the Outdoor Classroom Leader Development Course, which is an employee training program, they learn about relationships between living creatures, safety management, child psychology, and communication skills through one-and-a-half days of classroom lectures and field training. They then use what they have learned in the course to actually plan and run an outdoor classroom as a wrap-up of the course. Between fiscal 2007 and 2020, this development course was held 22 times, producing 432 leaders.

Preventing Environmental Incidents

Preventing Environmental Incidents through Information-Sharing and Equipment Inspections

Both within Japan and overseas, the Mitsubishi Electric Group strives to prevent environmental incidents, such as the leakage of substances that may result in water or soil pollution or have a negative impact upon the environment.

To achieve this, Mitsubishi Electric ensures that its entire workforce is fully familiar with the relevant laws and regulations, revises company rules to reflect any updates to such laws and regulations, and ensures these updates are made known throughout the Group. In the case of a problem (e.g., minor oversight) occurring, Mitsubishi Electric shares the cause and countermeasures throughout the entire Group to prevent it from reoccurring. Aiming to increase the awareness of environmental risk management, the Mitsubishi Electric Group’s offices and factories across Japan take measures such as watching internal training DVDs that introduce examples of problems and the establishment and renewal of important laws, thereby firmly instilling environmental management issues across a wider range of occupational levels. In addition, periodic facilities inspections are carried out at all Group bases, the results of which are compiled into necessary measures from time to time and utilized.

Environmental audits are also conducted at major affiliated companies overseas in an effort to uncover and prevent environmental risks.

Responding to Soil and Groundwater Pollution

As stated in our internal rules, the Mitsubishi Electric Group’s business sites (works, laboratories, etc.) conduct environmental assessments such as when there is a change in land characteristics. These assessments are based on a survey method that complies with relevant laws and regulations, and the necessary countermeasures or solutions are implemented in accordance with the state of pollution.

In fiscal 2020, we assessed survey results and countermeasures regarding the condition of soil and groundwater due to land utilization for a total of 11 cases (Mitsubishi Electric: eight cases, affiliated companies overseas: three cases) and have confirmed that all cases were handled appropriately.

Regarding areas that were recognized as having groundwater or soil pollution problems in the past, we implemented purification measures using method compliant with laws and regulations, and continue to regularly report the results of our monitoring to relevant government organizations.

Appropriate Storage and Processing of PCB Waste and Devices Containing PCBs

Mitsubishi Electric conducts inspections at all bases that store PCB waste and/or handle devices containing PCBs at least once a year to confirm the status of PCB storage and usage.

With respect to high-concentration PCBs, we entered into a contract with the Japan Environmental Storage & Safety Corporation (JESCO) to promote the systematic processing of PCB waste. In fiscal 2020, 45 devices and 11.5 tons of contaminants were processed. This systematic processing of PCB waste is also promoted by our affiliates in Japan.

Customers can confirm whether or not an electrical device manufactured by a Mitsubishi Electric Group company contains PCB by referring to a list available on the corporate website.