Chemical substance management

Compliance with laws and setting goals for reduction of chemical substances

When using chemical substances, the effects on human health and ecological systems must be fully considered. The JR East Group not only rigidly adheres to established base values, but sets its own ambitious targets as well. As much as possible, we restrict the use of such substances and adopt environmentally responsible substitutes.

Reducing and replacing ozone depleting substances

We endeavor to reduce the use of substances specified as controlled substances under the Ozone Layer Protection Law and adopt environmentally friendly substitutes.

- •Large heat exchangers (Large refrigerators) Having steadily replaced air conditioning units using specified chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) with systems that do not use them, we completed the removal of such units from buildings by the end of March 2008.
- •Rolling stock Except for some diesel railcars, all of our cars use CFC substitutes. As of the end of fiscal year ended March 2009, we were using 88 tons of CFC substitutes and only 0.5 ton of CFCs. We routinely check for gas leaks, and collect the refrigerants when scrapping retired railcars in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- •Fire-extinguishing agent -- Although 65 tons of halon gas was still in use as a fire-extinguishing agent as of the end of the fiscal year ended March 2009, we have it under proper control and are replacing it with non-halon agents (such as powder agents and CO₂) when building new facilities or renovating existing ones.

Chemical substance management

As JR East uses chemical substances primarily for painting and repairing our railcars, we take rigorous steps for their use and management in order to prevent their leakage. As a company that handles a considerable amount of specified chemical substances, JR East's 14 facilities submitted the data regarding the release and transfer of these substances to relevant authorities in fiscal year ended March 2009, pursuant to the PRTR Law.*

We are also promoting the introduction of stainless steel railcars that do not require painting. At the end of March 2009, as many as 78% of the 10,594 cars operated on our conventional lines were stainless steel railcars.

Beside their use for railcars, we used 583 tons of organic solvents for painting railway facilities and stabilizing track beds in fiscal year ended March 2009.

*PRTR stands for "pollutant release and transfer registers."

The formal name of this law is Act on Confirmation, etc. of Release Amounts of Specific Chemical Substances in the Environment and Promotion of Improvements to the Management Thereof. The law encourages the assessment and control of toxic chemical substances emitted into the environment and measures to prevent negative impact on the environment.

■Amount released and transferred from 14 reporting-required facilities

			(kg)
Chemical substance	Released into air	Released into sewerage	Transferred to other facilities
2-Aminoethanol	0	1,100	0
Bisphenol A-type epoxy resin	0	0	2,500
4,4'-methylenedianiline	0	0	310
Ethylbenzene	5,020	0	2,102
Ethylene glycol	1	0	9,350
Xylene	24,290	0	3,649

			(kg)
Chemical substance	Released into air	Released into sewerage	Transferred to other facilities
Chromium and Chromium(III) compounds	0	0	58
Methylene dichloride	6,500	0	560
Styrene	1,500	0	0
Toluene	18,680	0	14,220
m-tolylene diisocyanate	0	0	170
o-toluidine	0	0	150

Among the substances for which reporting is required, those that were actually released or transferred are posted here.

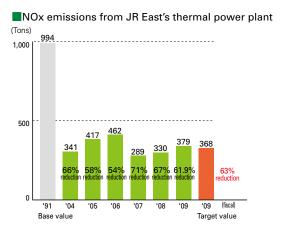
^{*}Note:

There was no release to soil, public water supply or disposal by landfills.

-Chemical substance management-

Reducing emissions from JR East's thermal power plants

We use natural gas, kerosene and Bunker C (especially, low-sulfur heavy oil) at JR East's thermal power plants. When these fuels burn, however, nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur oxides (SOx), and particulate matter (PM) are emitted. We endeavor both to control the generation of these substances and to reduce the total amount of emissions by installing denitrification equipment, low-NOx burners and dust collectors at the plants.



Management of PCBs

Equipment containing PCB's is securely stored at 82 locations and reports on it are filed as required by laws and regulations. We neutralize this equipment to the extent that can be done by PCB waste treatment facilities. In the fiscal year ending March 2009, we treated 87 units of equipment such as transformers and capacitors.