

Chemical substance management

Compliance with laws and regulations 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 standard values, but sets its own ambitious targets as well. As much as possible, we restrict the use of such substances and adopt substitutes that have less impact on the environment.

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 substitutes that have less impact on the environment. Moreover, The Act for Rationalized Use and Proper Management of Fluorocarbons (The Revised Fluorocarbons Recovery and Destruction Law) came into effect on April 1, 2015 requiring regular inspections, reporting of leakage amount, etc. We have been responding appropriately in accordance with the intent of the revised law.

- **Cooling units (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 FY2008.
- **Rolling stock**—Except for some diesel railcars, all of our cars use CFC substitutes. As of the end of FY2015, we were using 1.2 tons of CFCs and 87 tons of CFC substitutes. 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 67 tons of halon gas was still in use as a fire-extinguishing agent as of the end of FY2015, 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 spills. We are a company that handles a certain amount of specified chemical substances, and 15 JR East facilities submitted the data regarding the release and transfer of these substances to relevant authorities in FY2015, pursuant to the PRTR System.* We have also been introducing stainless steel railcars that do not require painting. At the end of FY2015, as many as 84.7% of the 10,690 cars operated on our conventional lines were stainless steel railcars. Beside their use for railcars, we used 430 tons of organic solvents for painting railway facilities and stabilizing track beds in FY2015.

* **PRTR system:** A system where companies notify their releases and transfers of chemical substances as required by the PRTR Law. It encourages the monitoring and control of toxic chemical substances emitted into the environment and measures to prevent negative impact on the environment.

Amount handled, released and transferred from 15 reporting-required facilities (kg)

Chemical substance	Handled (kg)	Released into air	Released into sewerage	Transferred to other facilities
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	85341.1	1617.6	0.0	1508.0
2-Aminoethanol	1248.4	0.0	0.0	229.0
Ethylbenzene	3125.0	273.9	0.0	2050.0
Xylene	85664.7	8764.2	0.0	1548.4
Chromium and Chromium(III) compound	2986.2	0.0	0.0	60.0
Toluene	15423.8	6853.5	0.0	130.5

Chemical substance	Handled (kg)	Released into air	Released into sewerage	Transferred to other facilities
Nickel	3958.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
n-Hexane	1535.5	145.0	0.0	0.0
Methylnaphthalene	70408.8	351.9	0.0	0.0
Molybdenum and its compounds	1581.6	10.0	0.0	0.0
Total	271,273.1	18,016.1	0.0	5,525.9

Management of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls)

Equipment containing PCBs is securely stored in exclusive storage locations and reports on it are filed as required by laws and regulations. We render this equipment harmless to the extent that can be done by PCB waste treatment facilities. In the fiscal year ended March 2015, we had equipment such as transformers and capacitors treated at PCB waste treatment facilities.