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15-2 A Field Study of Energy Efficient Factories

省エネルギー優良工場視察

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主

Summary of the Specified Household Electrical Appliances Recycle Law or the Electric Appliance Recycle Law

1. Objective

The objective of this law is to contribute to the economic health of the Japanese people, to effectively utilize resources to conserve the living environment, and to appropriately dispose waste products by adequately and efficiently enacting measures pertaining to collection and recycling activities by retailers and manufacturers.

2. Specified Household Appliances

The specified electrical household appliances that are designated by government ordinance are: 1) Appliances that are difficult to recycle by local municipal governments, 2) appliances that have a high recycle demand, 3) appliances that will significantly affect recycling due to their selected design and parts, and 4) appliances that can be rationally collected by retailers because they are delivered to the manufacturer.

Appliances that were initially targeted when the ordinance was officially implemented in April 2001 were air conditioners, televisions, refrigerators, and washing machines.

3. The Definition of Recycling

(1) Parts and materials are removed from the specified appliances and are utilized as raw materials for products or parts.

(2) Parts and materials are removed from the specified appliances and are utilized as fuel.

4. Developing Basic Policies

Basic policies will be established in order to collect and recycle the specified appliances comprehensively and systematically (officially announced jointly by the Environment Agency, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry on June 23, 1999).

5. Role of Relevant Parties

(1) Manufacturers and Importers

[1] Obligation to Collect Specified Appliances

The manufacturers of the specified electrical household appliances are required to collect the appliances that they have manufactured at a previously designated site when requested. This designated site must be suitably located to enable the appliances to be efficiently collected from retailers and the municipal governments and efficiently recycled.

[2] Obligation to Recycle

Manufacturers are required to recycle the collected appliances according to established standards, and it is especially important and appropriate that the tasks of collection and recycling are integrated.

A. Standard for Recycle Volume

- 1) Air conditioners: Higher than 60%
- 2) Television sets: Higher than 55%
- 3) Refrigerators: Higher than 50%
- 4) Washing machines: Higher than 50%

B. Tasks that must be integrated with the recycling process

Refrigerants such as chlorofluorocarbons used in air conditioners and refrigerators will be collected and destroyed or reused.

(2) Retailers

[1] Obligation to Collect

The retailers of the specified electrical household appliances are required to collect the appliance when requested as follows.

A. Retailers are required to collect a specified appliance that they have sold in the past.

B. Retailers are required to collect a specified appliance that is of the same type of appliance that they are selling.

[2] Obligation to Release

Retailers are required to release the collected appliance to the manufacturer of the said appliance (or to a designated company if the manufacturer is unknown).

(3) Consumer

Consumers are required to dispose of the specified appliance to the retailer to ensure that it is recycled and to cooperate with legal measures that stipulate the payment of established fees for collection and recycling.

(4) Municipal Governments

Municipal governments may release the collected specified appliances to the manufacturer (or to a designated company). They are also permitted to recycle the appliances themselves.

Municipal governments are responsible for educating and disseminating information about the recycling procedure to the residents in their jurisdiction.

(5) National Government

The national government is responsible for conducting the research and development needed to lower the cost of recycling, to provide information, to improve facilities, and to provide technological support, environmental education and public relation activities.

6. Charging Fees

[1] Manufacturers are permitted to charge the person or party requesting the manufacturer to collect the appliance a recycling fee. The amount charged must not exceed the appropriate initial cost needed to efficiently recycle the product. The fee that is collected must not prevent persons from appropriately disposing the specified appliance for recycle purposes.

[2] Retailers are permitted to charge persons a recycling fee to cover the collection and recycling costs of the manufacturers of the specified appliances.

[3] Warning notices, legal orders and punitive provisions will be enacted for those enterprises that charge exorbitant recycle fees, do not provide appropriate public information, or do not disclose their fees.

7. Others

(1) Manifest

A manifest will be issued and measures will be taken to ensure that the specified appliances are transported without fail.

(2) Designated Company

The services of a designated company will be utilized in the following cases.

- [1] In the event of bankruptcy by a manufacturer where the party responsible for recycling is unclear
- [2] In the event when small to medium manufacturers and importers are consigned the task of recycling specified household appliances
- [3] In the event the collection and recycling of specified appliances by the manufacturer is problematic in the local municipalities or based on a request by residents, the designated company will be responsible for turning over the specified appliances to the manufacturer or other parties.
- [4] To conduct surveys on recycling, educational activities and to disseminate information
- [5] To handle inquiries by private individuals and local municipalities

(3) Monitor Manufacturers and Retailers (take punitive provisions, and other measures)

Manufacturers and retailers will be monitored through warning notices, court orders, punitive provisions, collected reports, on-site inspections, and other measures to ensure their adequate performance in the event there is a violation of the requirement to collect and recycle specified household appliances.

(4) Correlation to the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law

In accordance with the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law, measures will be taken to ensure that the recycling process for specified appliances will not impede the conservation of the living environment. To implement the recycling process efficiently, special measures will be taken with regard to waste management permits based on the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law.

8. Implementation Period and Review

(1) The legal obligation of manufacturers and retailers to collect and recycle specified electrical household appliances was partially enacted in December 1998 and fully implemented from April 1, 2001.

(2) This law will be reviewed in its entirety five years after it has been fully implemented.

• Flow Chart of the Recycling Process Based on the Specified Household Electrical Appliances Recycle Law (or Electric Appliance Recycle Law) [PDF (56KB)]

1. Introduction

This is a guide explains the following based on the Electric Appliance Recycle Law for retailers selling Daikin air conditioners.

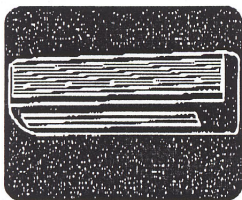
- The procedure for recycling electrical appliances, collecting recycle fees, collecting and transporting appliances
- Arrangements made by Daikin Industries, Ltd. with regard to collection and recycling based on the purport of the Electric Appliance Recycle Law

2. Background History—Legislation of the Electric Appliance Recycle Law

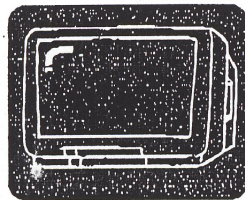
The objective of the Electric Appliance Law is to provide measures that will ensure that the collection and recycling tasks will be appropriately and efficiently implemented by manufacturers and retailers, to secure the effective use of resources and appropriate disposal of waste material, and to contribute to the conservation of the living environment and the economic health of the Japanese people. In other words, the law was legislated to conserve finite global resources and the environment by recycling waste materials.

3. Specified Electrical Household Appliances

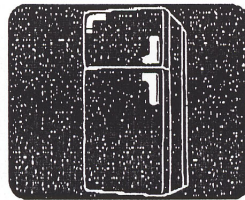
The following four household appliances were designated under this law when it was initially enacted in April 2001.



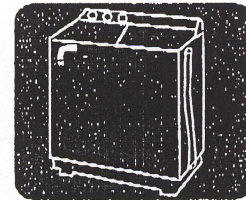
Air Conditioners



Televisions



Refrigerators



Washing Machines

Conditions Pertaining to Specified Household Appliances

- Appliances that are difficult to recycle by local municipal governments
- Appliances that have a high recycle demand
- Appliances that will significantly affect recycling due to their selected design and parts
- Appliances that can be rationally collected by retailers since the appliances are delivered to the manufacturer

What is recycling?

Recycling is a process by which parts and materials are removed from disposed household appliances.

These parts and materials are utilized in other products.

These parts and materials are utilized as fuel.

4. Common Elements Related to the Recycle of Air Conditioners

■ Targeted Appliances

Air conditioners that are targeted for recycling purposes are the window or wall-hanging units, split-system units, and floor units. However, air conditioners that have been designed and sold for business use, i.e., the package air conditioners, are excluded. In addition, built-in wall or ceiling air conditioners for household use are also excluded. Air conditioner units that are excluded from recycling must be disposed of by the owner as conventional solid waste as stipulated by municipal ordinance. Or they must be collected by the retailer and disposed of as solid waste.

■ Collecting Chlorofluorocarbons

The law stipulates that the manufacturer is required to collect and destroy or reuse chlorofluorocarbons. Thus, retailers and repair shops are required to pump down the disposed chlorofluorocarbons that are collected, to store them in an outdoor unit, and to deliver them to a previously designated site. If it is impossible to pump down the chlorofluorocarbons due to malfunctions, please close the valv