

Chapter 12 Administrative Outline of Air Quality Conservation

12.1 Air Quality Conservation Administrative Framework and Enforcement System

The administration of air quality conservation in Japan is carried out by competent local governments under the direction of the Air Quality Bureau of the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency Air Quality Bureau, the structure and functions of which are shown in Fig. 12.1.1, consists of 4 divisions and 2 sections under the supervision of the Bureau Director, including the Planning Division, the Air Pollution Control Division, the Motor Vehicle-Related Environment Measures Divisions 1 and 2, the Air Living Environment Section and the Wide Scale Air Quality Control Section, and carries out administrative measures to regulate air pollution, noise, and vibrations, offensive odors, protection of the ozone layer and acid rain.

Also, the Planning and co-ordination Bureau carries out work related to pollution control programs and systems for compensating air pollution victims and preventing air pollution-related health damage and coordinates measures carried out by other government agencies, including research on air pollution control measures, fuel supply improvements, and energy saving policies.

The administration of air quality conservation is apportioned among the national agencies and local governments chiefly as follows. The national agencies establish the national and area-wide standards and promote projects to assist the local governments, and the local governments are responsible for, among other things, carrying out regulations and supervision.

Regarding air pollutant emissions control, according to the Air Pollution Control Law, for example, the national government conducts investigations into the actual conditions of environment and air pollutants in order to establish controlled facilities and emissions standards, and it also examines the state of air pollutant emitting facilities and emission prevention technologies. The local governments are responsible for administrative activities like carrying out notification inspections and competence inspections of smoke and soot emitting sites as well as regular supervision, guidance and orders for site improvements.

Furthermore, regarding regulations of total emission of designated smoke and soot emissions, the national government establishes controlled areas and controlled substances and determines the content of total-volume regulations manuals and pollutant substances measuring technologies, and the local governments conduct numerous technological investigations, determine the total-volume emission regulation standards due to the total-volume emission reduction programs which are the basis of total-volume emission controls, issue improvement orders, and promote the work of enforcing regulation of total emissions.

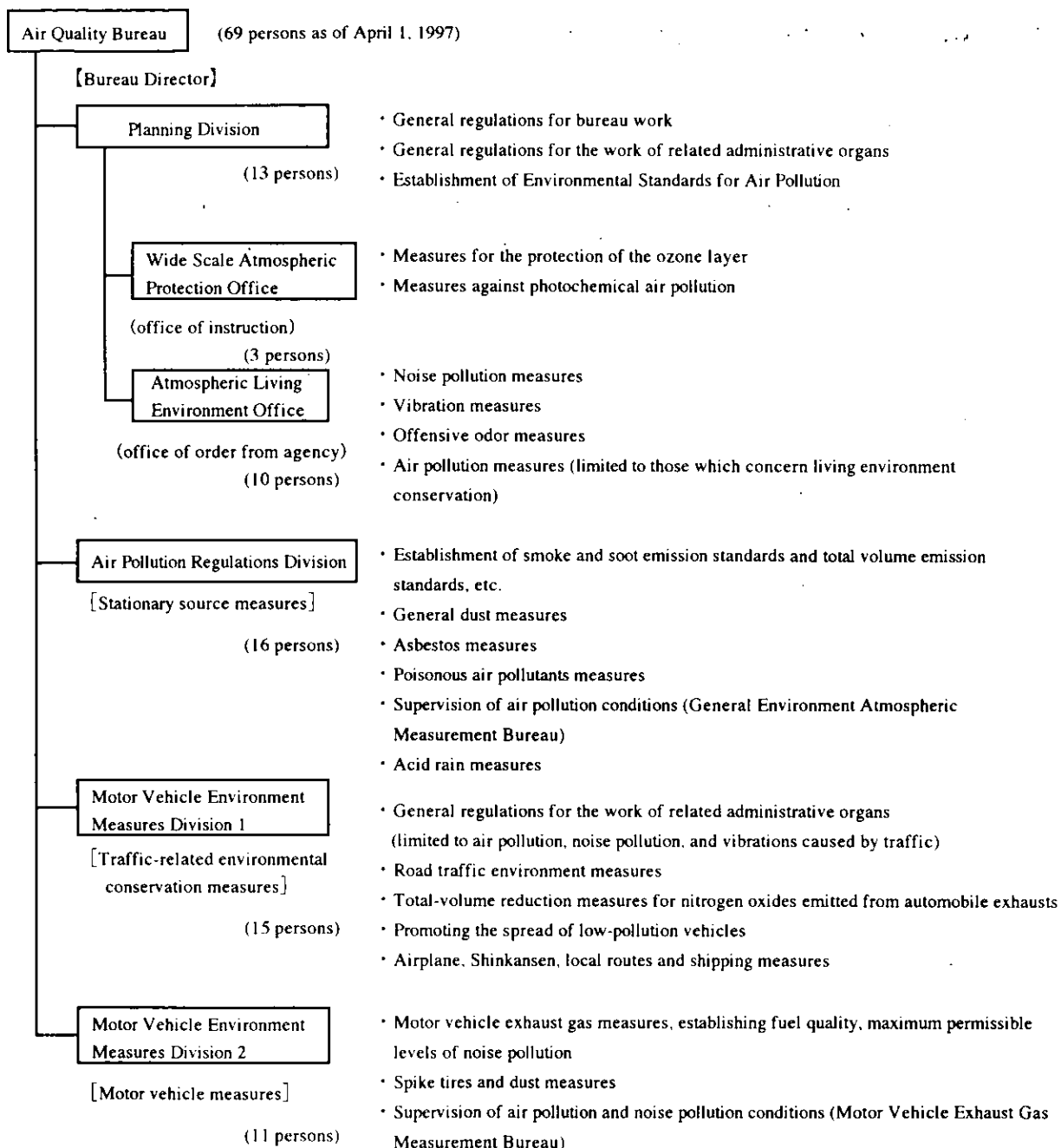
The national government agencies regulate automobile exhaust gases by establishing the maximum permissible levels of automobile exhaust gases and motor vehicle fuel quality, and the local governments measure the concentrations of automobile exhaust gases in the vicinity of roads and issue requests and opinions concerning necessary particulars to the relevant administrative organs based upon their findings. Moreover, local governments are to maintain and operate the air pollution monitoring systems established due to the Air Pollution Control Law, and the data from these monitoring systems on air pollution conditions is gathered nationally by the Air Quality

Conservation Bureau, which aims to spread knowledge about this data by compiling the "Environment White Paper" and the "Report on the Measurement Results of the Air Quality Monitoring Station".

Furthermore, in regard to the Special Measures Law concerning the reduction in total-volume emissions in areas designated for automobile emissions of nitrogen oxides, the national government formulates the basic policies for the reduction of total-volume emissions, designates the controlled areas, and establishes the specified motor vehicle emissions standards, and the local governments set up concrete plans to carry out total-volume emission reductions based on these basic policies for the reduction of total-volume emissions.

The Air Quality Conservation Bureau also establishes the standards and names the offensive odorous substances according to the Offensive Odor Control Law and designates the measurement methods for that law.

Besides these undertakings, the Air Quality Conservation Bureau also establishes the environmental quality standards (related to air quality) according to the Basic Environment Law, compiles measurement guidelines and administrative manuals, executes pollution control programs, and works positively to promote administrative activities related to international cooperation and the protection of the ozone layer and other related global environment issues.



* Air Quality Conservation Bureau Related Laws

- Air Pollution Control Law
- Law Regarding Special Measures for the Total-Volume Reduction of Nitrogen Oxides Emissions From Motor Vehicles in Specified Areas
- Spike Tire and Dust Emission Control Law
- Law Regarding the Regulation of Specified Substances For the Protection of the Ozone Layer
- Noise Control Law
- Vibration Control Law
- Offensive Odor Control Law

Fig.12.1.1 Environment Agency Air Quality Conservation Bureau Structure and Related Laws