

**The National Implementation Plan  
of Japan  
under the Stockholm Convention  
on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**Updated in March 2025**

The initial National Implementation Plan was endorsed by the “Council of Ministers for Global Environment Conversation” on 24 June 2005, and the revised plan was approved by the “Inter-Ministerial General Directors’ Meeting on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants” on 7 August 2012, on 6 October 2016 and on 20 November 2020. The revision was made in accordance with Article 7 (Implementation plans) of the Stockholm Convention, the guidance in decision SC-1/12 (Annex, II 7) and the process shown in decision SC-2/7 (Annex, Step 7) of the Conference of the Parties, and this revised plan was endorsed by the “Inter-Ministerial General Directors’ Meeting on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants” on 3 March 2025.

# Table of Contents

	Page
<b>Chapter 1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Section 1 Background to the adoption of the Stockholm Convention and Japan's accession	2
Section 2 Historical Background of POPs issues in Japan	2
Section 3 Procedures for the development and revision of the national implementation plan	4
 <b>Chapter 2 The current status of Japan</b>	 <b>6</b>
Section 1 Country profile	6
1. Population and other statistics	6
2. Political structure	8
3. The manufacturing and agricultural sectors	10
4. Employment in the major economic sectors	11
Section 2 Implementation status of measures regarding POPs	12
1. Regulation of production, use, import and export	12
2. Measures regarding unintentional production	12
3. Measures regarding stockpiles and wastes	13
4. Environmental monitoring	14
Section 3 Current situations and problems surrounding POPs	14
1. Status of general environment	14
2. Effectiveness evaluation of measures taken and remaining problems	38
 <b>Chapter 3 Specific measures - strategy and elements of the National Implementation Plan</b>	 <b>45</b>
Section 1 Basic concept	45
Section 2 Effective implementation of the plan	45
1. Framework of implementation and cooperation among actors	45
2. Coordination of various national policies	47
Section 3 Regulatory measures designed to prevent the manufacture, use, import and export of persistent organic pollutants.	48
1. Measures under the Chemical Substances Control Law	48
2. Measures under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act	49
3. Measures under the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act	49
4. Measures under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act	50

<b>Section 4 Action Plan for Reduction of Emissions of Unintentionally Produced Chemicals</b>	<b>51</b>
1. Dioxins	51
2. Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	65
3. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	67
4. Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB)	70
5. Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs)	72
6. Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD)	74
<b>Section 5 Measures to eliminate polychlorinated biphenyls</b>	<b>76</b>
1. Ban on use	76
2. Elimination	76
<b>Section 6 Strategy for identification of stockpiles and wastes, and measures for sound management and disposal</b>	<b>78</b>
1. Stored agricultural chemicals	78
2. Other agricultural chemicals	80
3. Dioxin-contaminated wastes	81
4. Dioxin-containing agricultural chemicals	82
5. Industrial products containing PFOS or its salts	83
6. Brominated flame retardants of plastics	85
7. Chlorine agents	86
8. Industrial products containing PFOA, its salts and PFOA related substances	87
9. Industrial products containing PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS related substances	90
10. Industrial products containing UV-328	90
<b>Section 7 Strategy for Identification of contaminated sites</b>	<b>91</b>
1. Dioxins	91
2. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)	93
3. Others	94
<b>Section 8 Countermeasures against chemical substances not listed in the Annexes of the Stockholm Convention</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Section 9 Measures for monitoring POPs in the environment</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Section 10 International measures</b>	<b>97</b>
1. Measures in responses to the Stockholm Convention	97
2. Coordination with other related international conventions	99
<b>Section 11 Provision of information</b>	<b>101</b>
1. Compilation of information	101
2. Consultation with stakeholders	101
3. Publicity activities	102
<b>Section 12 Promotion of research and technological development</b>	<b>102</b>

1. Overall policy	102
2. Individual research and technological development	102
<b>Chapter 4 Review and updating of the national implementation plan</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>105</b>
1. Status of general environment (Tables and Figures)	106
2. Government Plan to Reduce Dioxins Levels Resulting from Business Activities in Japan	118

# Chapter 1 Introduction

Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (hereafter referred to as the Stockholm Convention) requires each Party to the Stockholm Convention to develop its national implementation plan (NIP) for implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention and to transmit its NIP to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which the Convention enters into force for the Party. Upon the addition of chemicals to the Annexes, each Party is required to review and update the implementation plan in accordance with guidance of decision SC-1/2 (Annex, II 7) and process of decision SC-2/7 (Annex, Step 7) of the Conference of the Parties. In addition, Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention requires each Party to develop an action plan designed to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production of Persistent Organic Pollutants (hereafter referred to as POPs), and to subsequently implement it as a part of its NIP.

By international cooperation and through each Party's concrete actions obliged under the Stockholm Convention based on its NIP, the reduction of POPs on global scale is expected to be promoted, leading to the protection of human health and the environment.

The Convention prescribes that each Party should implement the following measures.

- Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use
- Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production (including the development and implementation of an action plan)
- Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes containing POPs
- To develop and implement a national implementation plan for these measures
- Other measures
  - Measures to prevent the production and use of new POPs
  - Research and development, monitoring, provision of information to the public and education on POPs, etc.
  - Technical and financial assistance to developing countries

The NIP was revised to reflect the addition of perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) and its salts, and PFHxS related substances to the Annex at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in June 2022, and its entry into force from 16 November 2023. This revision also includes dechlorane plus, methoxychlor and UV-328, which were adopted to be listed in the Annex at the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in May 2023.

This document is a national implementation plan of Japan under Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention and includes an action plan and results of the assessment on unintentional products under subparagraph (a) of Article 5 of the Convention.

This document was developed in reference to the draft guidance document for developing a national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention, which was revised on January 2017.

## **Section 1 Background to the adoption of the Stockholm Convention and Japan's accession**

POPs such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and DDTs are toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative. They are transported through air, water and migratory species across international boundaries, then deposited far from their emission sources, and accumulate in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Therefore, it became internationally recognized that there are health concerns resulting from local exposure to POPs, especially in developing countries. In particular, there are impacts on women and, through them, on future generations. Additionally, Arctic ecosystems and indigenous communities are particularly at risk because of the bioaccumulation of POPs through the food chain, and the contamination of their traditional foods is a public health concern.

It was recognized that actions by only a limited number of countries were insufficient for the worldwide elimination and reduction of POPs. Therefore, negotiations within a multilateral framework were initiated in 1998 to draft an international convention on the elimination and reduction of POPs. In the wake of discussions and negotiations at two meetings of the Expert Group to define the criteria of POPs and five meetings of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee, the Stockholm Convention was adopted at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Stockholm in May 2001.

The Japanese government has actively participated in the work to establish a legally binding international framework since the first Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee. The Japanese government acceded to the Convention on 30 August 2002.

After the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to become a Party to the Stockholm Convention was deposited on 17 February 2004, the Stockholm Convention entered into force on 17 May 2004. As of July 2024, 184 countries including Japan, the European Union (EU) and Palestine, are the Parties to the Convention.

## **Section 2 Historical Background of POPs issues in Japan**

In the past, crops, water and soil contaminated with high residue level of agricultural

chemicals such as DDTs, aldrin and dieldrin used in Japan led to social problems. Hence, the “Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act (Act No. 82 of 1948)” was amended in 1971, and an evaluation system for the residues in crops, water and soil, as well as toxicity was introduced for agricultural chemicals registration. Thus, in addition to the protection measures for aquatic organisms, a new regulation was introduced whereby the registration of agricultural chemicals is withheld if they may cause adverse effects on human health and livestock through residues in crops or soil or through water pollution. However, dieldrin and chlordane were also used as insecticides for termite control, raising concerns about environmental pollution.

In 1980s, the use of these chemicals for non-agricultural purposes was regulated by prior authorization for their production and import (practically prohibited) and by restrictions and notifications for their use (practically prohibited), under the “Law concerning the Evaluation of Chemical Substances and Regulation of Their Manufacture etc. (Law No. 117 of 1973, hereafter referred to as the Chemical Substances Control Law).”

PCBs, which possess chemical stability, insulating characteristics and incombustibility, have been used for a wide range of purposes, including electrical insulation oil and heating medium for transformers and capacitors. However, ever since 1966, it has become increasingly apparent that PCBs contaminate the environment, as exemplified by the detection of PCBs in fish and birds worldwide. In Japan, in 1968, the PCBs used as heating medium in the manufacturing process of cooking oil had contaminated the product and caused health hazards (the Kanemi Cooking Oil Health Hazards Incident). Subsequently, PCBs were detected in various organisms and breast milk, and PCBs contamination became a major social issue. Given this situation, the production of PCBs ceased since 1972 and the Chemical Substances Control Law was enacted in 1973. Under the law, a framework was created to evaluate chemical substances like PCBs in advance, which resist degradation in the environment (persistent), bioaccumulate in the bodies of living organisms (bioaccumulative), and pose a risk of harming human health if taken in continuously, and to regulate the production, import and use of chemicals to prevent the environment from being contaminated by such chemical substances. The Chemical Substances Control Law was amended in 2003 to bring within its regulation chemical substances which poses a risk of interfering with the inhabitation and/or growth of predatory animals at higher trophic levels, in addition to chemical substances that are persistent, bioaccumulative, and pose a risk of harming human health if taken in continuously.

Moreover, there were several attempts to establish PCB disposal facilities under the initiative of the private sector in order to dispose of PCBs already produced. However, such attempts failed to gain understanding and consent from local communities, and much of the PCBs remained as stockpiles without being disposed of for nearly 30 years. It was also found that during the long-term stockpiling, some transformers were lost or became untraceable, raising concerns



that such stockpiled PCBs might contaminate the environment. Thus, in June 2001, the Law concerning Special Measures for Promotion of Proper Treatment of PCB Wastes (Law No.65 of 2001, hereafter referred to as the PCB Special Measures Law) was enacted to obligate entities possessing PCB wastes to report the status of their stockpiling and to dispose of such waste within a given timeframe in an environmentally sound manner, in order to facilitate the sure and correct treatment of PCB wastes.

Environmental issues related to dioxins (polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs) and coplanar PCBs) attracted public attention in 1983 when investigations revealed that dioxins were detected in the fly ashes from municipal waste incinerators. Consequently, environmental monitoring surveys on dioxins in bottom sediment, rivers, lakes, sea waters and aquatic organisms were initiated in 1985, and in ambient air in 1986. Regarding the sources, investigations were implemented on the actual status of waste incinerators in 1984 and pulp and paper factories in 1990. On the basis of the findings from these investigations, guidelines were established and administrative guidance on controlling emissions was conducted.

Furthermore, from around 1996 onward, public concern heightened regarding environmental contamination caused by releases from waste incinerator facilities. In 1997, dioxins were designated as hazardous air pollutants, and measures were introduced to control their emission into the atmosphere in terms of the preventive actions taken to reduce the risks of health hazards under the Air Pollution Control Law (Law No.97 of 1968). Additionally, in July 1999, the Law concerning Special Measures against Dioxins (Law No.105 of 1999, hereafter referred to as the Dioxins Law) was established, and the regulatory framework was put in place to implement comprehensive measures such as establishing tolerable daily intake and environmental quality standards, regulating the release of emission gases and effluent water from various facilities, introducing enhanced regulation on waste disposal, and conducting investigations on the status of contamination and taking measures against contaminated soil and other matters. These measures are now implemented under the law.

### **Section 3 Procedures for the development and revision of the national implementation plan**

In January 2003, Inter-Ministerial General Directors' Meeting on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and its Steering Committee were established, and they began their work on developing the NIP.

After the Inter-Ministerial Meeting had developed the draft NIP document in May 2005,

the Inter-Ministerial Meeting published the draft NIP document for public comments for 2 weeks. Afterwards, the NIP was amended by the Inter-Ministerial Meeting and submitted to the Council of Ministers for Global Environment Conversation for endorsement on 24 June 2005.

At the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, amendments were made to the Annexes to list nine new chemicals, and the amendments came into force in August 2010. Hence, with the cooperation of relevant ministries, the modification of the 2005 NIP started in 2011, and the revised NIP was drafted and published in June 2012 by the Inter-Ministerial Meeting for a 30-day public commenting period. After further revisions, the Plan was adopted as the revised NIP at the Inter-Ministerial General Directors' Meeting on 7 August 2012. This revised NIP included the new chemical added at the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

At the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a new chemical was adopted to be added to the Annex, and the amendment of the Annex came into force in November 2014. In response to this, the revision of the 2012 NIP was started with the cooperation of relevant ministries, and the revised NIP was drafted and published in June 2016 by the Steering Committee of Inter-Ministerial General Directors' Meeting for a 30-day public commenting period. After further consideration, the Plan was adopted as the revised NIP at the Inter-Ministerial General Directors' Meeting on 6 October 2016. This revised NIP included three new chemical groups which were added at the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

In addition, at the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, three new chemicals were adopted to be added to the Annexes, and the amendment of the Annexes came into force in December 2018. Following this, the revision of the 2016 NIP was started with the cooperation of relevant ministries, and the revised NIP was drafted by the Steering Committee of Inter-Ministerial General Directors' Meeting in July 2020 and published for a 30-day public commenting period. After further considerations, the Plan was adopted as the revised NIP at the Inter-Ministerial meeting on 20 November 2020. This revised NIP included two new chemical groups which were added at the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

At the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a new chemical was adopted to be added to the Annex, and the amendment of the Annex came into force in November 2023. In response to this, the revision of the 2020 NIP was started with the cooperation of relevant ministries, and the revised NIP was drafted by the Steering Committee of Inter-Ministerial General Directors' Meeting in November 2024 and published for a 30-day public commenting period. After further considerations, the Plan was adopted as the revised NIP at the Inter-Ministerial meeting on March 2025. This current revised NIP includes three new chemical groups which were added at the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## Chapter 2 The current status of Japan

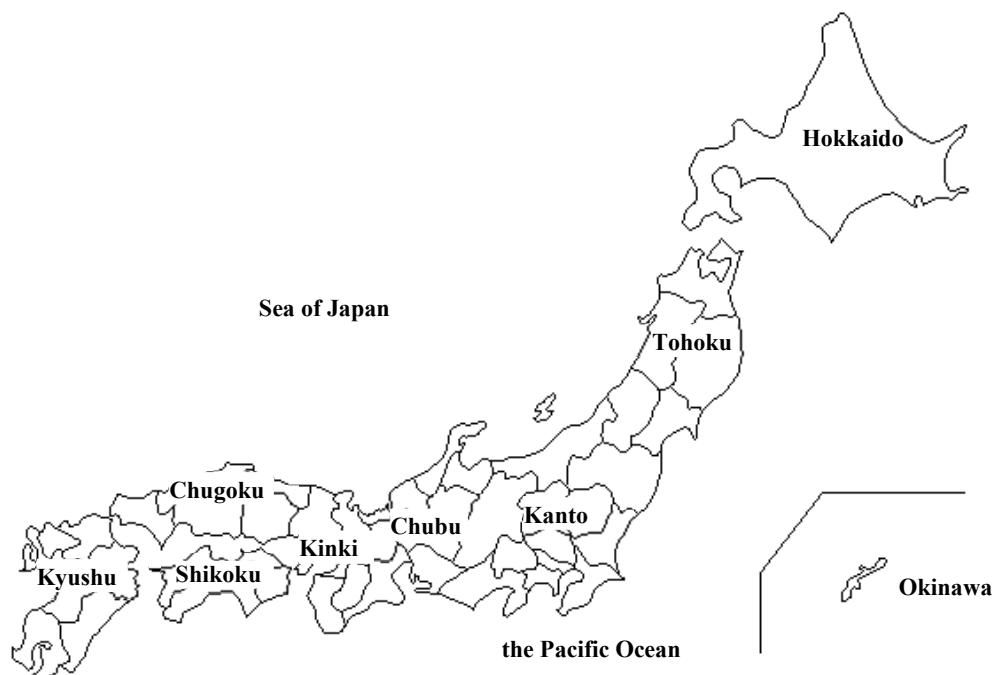
### Section 1 Country profile

#### 1. Population and other statistics

##### (1) Geography

The area of Japan is approximately 378,000 km<sup>2</sup>. And it is situated to the east of the Asian Continent. Japan consists of four major islands (Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku in diminishing order of the area size) and has many other smaller islands. Japan faces the Pacific Ocean on the eastern side, and the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea lie between Japan and the Asian Continent.

##### Diagram: Japanese map



(Source: Web-japan homepage [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <http://web-japan.org/factsheet/>)

## (2) Official language and educational system

Japan's official language is Japanese, and the literacy rate is almost 100%. Six years of elementary school and three years of junior high school are compulsory, and 98.7% of students graduating from junior high school go on to high school and other institutions (as of 2023). 61.1% of students enroll in higher education institutions (universities (undergraduate course) and junior colleges), including the number of students attending preparatory schools for university (as of 2023).

## (3) Population dynamics

The total population of Japan is approximately 126.15 million (as of 2020).

**Table: Total population and age composition**

Year	Population (unit: 1,000 persons)				Proportion (%)		
	Total number	Age 0-14	Age 15-64	Age 65 and over	Age 0-14	Age 15-64	Age 65 and over
1920	55,963	20,416	32,605	2,941	36.5	58.3	5.3
1925	59,737	21,924	34,792	3,021	36.7	58.2	5.1
1930	64,450	23,579	37,807	3,064	36.6	58.7	4.8
1935	69,254	25,545	40,484	3,225	36.9	58.5	4.7
1950	84,115	29,786	50,168	4,155	35.4	59.6	4.9
1955	90,077	30,123	55,167	4,786	33.4	61.2	5.3
1960	94,302	28,434	60,469	5,398	30.2	64.1	5.7
1965	99,209	25,529	67,444	6,236	25.7	68.0	6.3
1970	104,665	25,153	72,119	7,393	24.0	68.9	7.1
1975	111,940	27,221	75,807	8,865	24.3	67.7	7.9
1980	117,060	27,507	78,835	10,647	23.5	67.3	9.1
1985	121,049	26,033	82,506	12,468	21.5	68.2	10.3
1990	123,611	22,486	85,904	14,895	18.2	69.5	12.0
1995	125,570	20,014	87,165	18,261	15.9	69.4	14.5
2000	126,926	18,472	86,220	22,005	14.6	67.9	17.3
2005	127,768	17,521	84,092	25,672	13.8	66.1	20.2
2010	128,057	16,803	81,032	29,246	13.2	63.8	23.0
2015	127,095	15,951	77,354	33,790	12.6	60.9	26.6
2020	126,146	15,032	75,088	36,027	11.9	59.5	28.6

Source: Report on National Census, Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Notes: Persons whose ages are unknown have been included in the total numbers from 1975 to 2010. The population for 2015 and 2020 are supplemented with estimated values due to unknown data.

## (4) Average life expectancy

In 2023, the average life expectancy was 81.09 years for men and 87.14 years for women.

## (5) Population of 15 years old or more and unemployment rate

According to the Labour Force Survey of 2023, the population aged 15 and above was

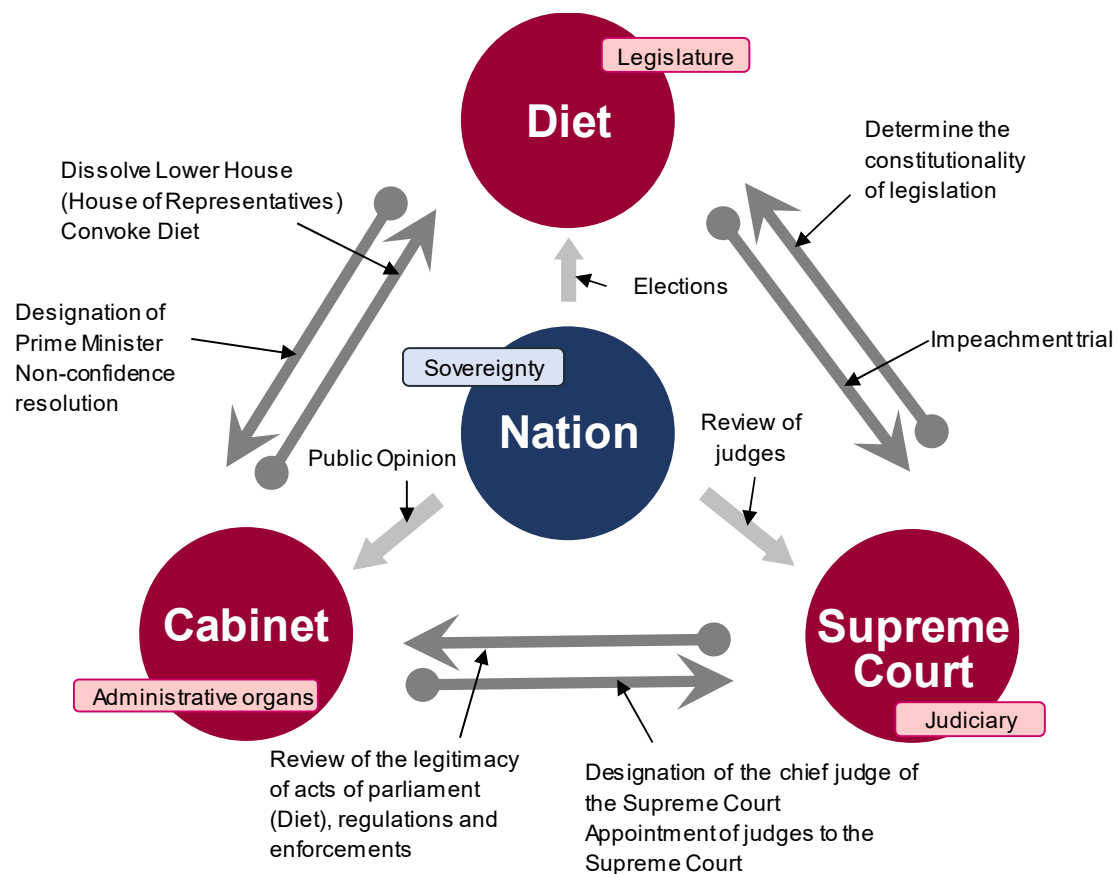
110.17 million. The unemployment rate was 2.6%.

## 2. Political structure

### (1) Form of government

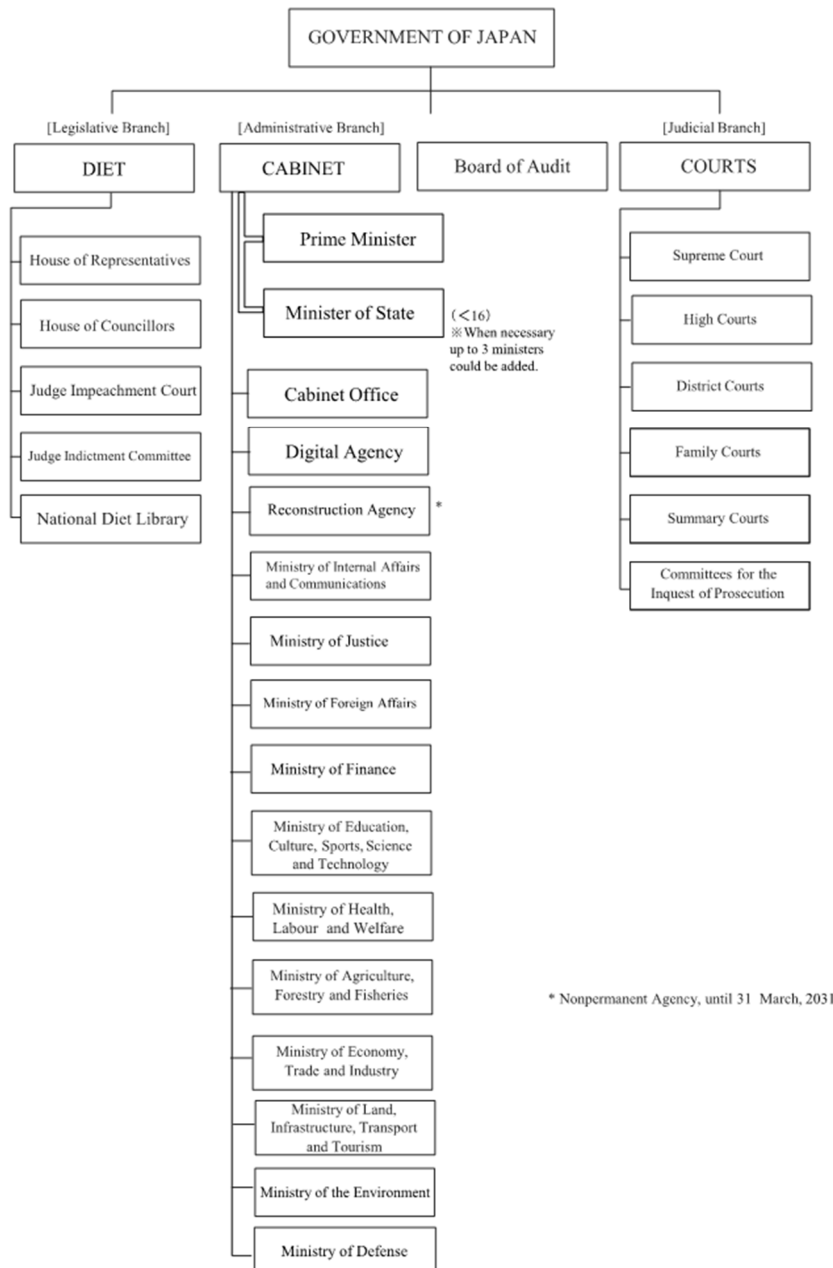
The present Constitution came into effect on 3 May 1947. The Cabinet Law came into effect at the same time, and with it, the present cabinet system was established. In other words, under the sovereignty of the nation the separation of the three powers of the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary are ensured thoroughly, and at the same time, under the basic framework of a two-house parliamentary cabinet system, the Cabinet has given the status of the main body of executive authority.

**Diagram: The separation of the three powers under the Japanese Constitution**



The Prime Minister is given the position of Head of the Cabinet and represents the Cabinet. Furthermore, under the Constitution, executive power is vested in the Cabinet. The Cabinet Office and 11 ministries established under the Cabinet exercise administration. Furthermore, committees and agencies are established as external bureau of the Cabinet Office.

**Diagram: Structure of the Legislature (Diet), the Executive and the Judiciary**



Source: Homepage of Cabinet Secretariat  
([https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/gaiyou/jimu/jinjikyoku/2023\\_pdf/02.pdf](https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/gaiyou/jimu/jinjikyoku/2023_pdf/02.pdf))

## (2) The number of local public authorities

There are 47 prefectures, 792 cities, 743 towns and 183 villages in Japan (as of July 2024). 62 cities have been designated as major urban cities (as of April 2023).

Source: Homepage of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications  
(<https://www.soumu.go.jp/kouiki/kouiki.html>, <http://www.soumu.go.jp/cyukaku/index.html>)

## (3) The status of local public authorities and decentralization

The fundamental principle of local autonomy is set in the Local Autonomy Law (Law No. 67 of 1947). This law specifies the formal and organizational framework of local public authorities, and the matters regarding their administration. Furthermore, this law stipulates the fundamental relations between the government and local public authorities.

## 3. The manufacturing and agricultural sectors

### (1) Table: Overview of the manufacturing and agricultural sectors

Sector	(1) Contribution rate to Gross Domestic Product (unit: billion yen)(as of 2022)	(2) Number of employees (thousand persons)(as of 2021)
Manufacturing	107,618 (19.2%)	8,804 (14.1%)
Mining	447 (0.1%)	20 (0.03%)
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	5,696 (1.0%)	461 (0.7%)
Total	113,760 (20.3%)	9,285 (14.9%)

Source: (1) *Annual National Accounts*, Cabinet Office, (2) *2021 Economic Census for Business Activity*, Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Note: The definitions of manufacturing and agricultural sectors vary across different statistics.

### (2) Table: The structure of the manufacturing and agricultural sectors

Sector	Micro Business	Small-Scale Business	Medium-Scale Business	Large-Scale Business
Manufacturing	329,025 (80.0%)	67,907 (16.5%)	11,222 (2.7%)	3,306 (0.8%)
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	37,441 (86.7%)	5,546 (12.8%)	186 (0.4%)	9 (0.02%)
Total of all sectors	4,625,356 (88.0%)	556,100 (10.6%)	57,299 (1.1%)	14,824 (0.3%)

Source: *2021 Economic Census for Business Frame*, Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Note: Micro businesses are defined here as holding between 1 and 19 employees, small-scale businesses between 20 and 99 employees, medium-scale businesses between 100 and 299 employees, and large-scale businesses more than 300 employees.

#### 4. Employment in the major economic sectors

**Table: Employment situation in major types of industry**

Type of Industry	Number of Businesses (Establishments)	Number of Employees
Forestry	5,506	59,554
Metal mining	7	339
Coal and lignite mining	18	332
Crude petroleum and natural gas	21	914
Food	43,766	1,277,205
Beverages, tobacco and feed	8,426	138,160
Textile mill products	32,577	320,303
Lumber and wood products except furniture	11,521	112,689
Furniture and fixtures	17,673	124,583
Pulp, paper and paper products	9,840	212,289
Chemicals and related products	9,417	453,074
Petroleum and coal products	1,709	31,971
Plastic products	22,060	494,945
Leather tanning, leather products and fur skins	4,085	29,509
Ceramic, stone and clay products	19,095	277,021
Iron and steel	7,653	246,330
Non-ferrous metals and products	4,883	154,142
Fabricated metal products	55,034	714,806
General purpose machinery	15,770	362,583
Production machinery	37,199	695,895
Business oriented machinery	8,508	247,955
Electrical machinery, equipment and supplies	16,307	533,529
Transportation equipment	18,726	1,102,819
Electricity	6,514	139,547
Gas	552	33,382
Heat supply	206	2,207
Water	5,329	105,484
Waste treatment services	24,178	344,579

Source: 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity, Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications



## **Section 2 Implementation status of measures regarding POPs**

### **1. Regulation of production, use, import and export**

Production, use, import and export of the chemicals designated under the Stockholm Convention are prohibited or virtually prohibited under the Chemical Substances Control Law, the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act, the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (Act No. 145 of 1960, hereafter referred to as the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act), the Export Trade Control Order (Cabinet Order No. 378 of 1949) and the Import Trade Control Order (Cabinet Order No. 414 of 1949) based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949). These measures will be described in detail in Section 3 of Chapter 3.

### **2. Measures regarding unintentional production**

In Japan, under the Dioxins Law, PCDDs, PCDFs and coplanar PCBs are defined as the dioxins. Environmental quality standards, tolerable daily intake (TDI) and emissions standards for effluent water and emission gases from specified facilities are set forth. A government plan to reduce the release of dioxins is established, and various release reduction measures are promoted in a comprehensive manner.

Unintentionally produced POPs such as PCBs, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), pentachlorobenzene (PeCB), polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs), and hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD) are similar to dioxins in the source categories and formation processes. Therefore, it is expected to be effective to a certain extent to manage the generation and emission as the same measures taken for dioxins. On the other hand, for some emission sources and substance types, measures against dioxins alone may not be sufficient to control emissions of unintentionally produced POPs. Considering this, “Measures to Control Emissions of Unintentionally Produced Persistent Organic Pollutants in Japan (June 2024)” (hereinafter referred to as the Publication on Measures to Control Emissions) was compiled and released for the purpose of disseminating to relevant business operators, information effective in reducing emissions, by adding emission reduction measures other than those for dioxins.

Under the Law concerning Reporting etc. of Releases to the Environment of Specific Chemical Substances and Promoting Improvements in Their Management (Law No.86 of 1999, hereafter referred to as the PRTR Law), dioxins and PCBs are subject to the requirements of the PRTR (Pollutants Release and Transfer Register) system.

### **3. Measures regarding stockpiles and wastes**

#### **(1) Collection and detoxification of POPs agricultural chemicals**

Under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act, the distribution or use of agricultural chemicals containing any of the 18 chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention as the active ingredient is prohibited. Additionally, manufacturers and others have collected these agricultural chemicals and have either stored them safely or detoxified them.

In Japan, organochlorine agricultural chemicals including certain POPs (aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, DDTs, and BHC ( $\alpha$ -hexachlorocyclohexane,  $\beta$ -hexachlorocyclohexane and lindane), hereafter referred to as POPs agricultural chemicals) used to be stored in the ground. According to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the total amount of stored POPs agricultural chemicals was around 4,400 tons. Approximately 4,100 tons of these POPs agricultural chemicals had already been excavated and handled properly by March 2024.

#### **(2) Consideration on proper disposal of POPs wastes**

Stored POPs agricultural chemicals and ashes from incineration plants containing dioxins mentioned above must be disposed of appropriately as wastes containing POPs. Wastes containing dioxins are properly treated based on the Dioxins Law and the Act on Waste Management and Public Cleansing (Act No.137 of 1970, hereafter referred to as the Waste Management Act). Wastes containing PCBs are treated based on the PCB Special Measures Law. To promote safe and definite detoxification, collection and transport of waste electrical equipments contaminated with small amount of PCBs, the following guidelines have been issued: “Guideline for treatment of low level PCB contaminated wastes - incineration (Revised October 2020),” “Guideline for treatment of waste electrical and electronic equipment contaminated by small amounts of PCBs - cleansing (Revised September 2016),” “Guideline for collecting and transporting low level PCB wastes (Issued December 2019)” and “ Guideline on survey methods for early identification and proper treatment of electrical and electronic equipment contaminated by low level of PCBs (Issued March 2022).”

To promote appropriate treatment of other POPs wastes, “Technical Guidance on Treatment of Waste containing POPs Agricultural Chemicals (Revised August 2009)” and “Technical Note on the Treatment of Waste Containing PFOS and PFOA(Issued September 2022)” were prepared based on the outcomes of the above mentioned development of detoxification methods for waste containing POPs agricultural chemicals and wastes containing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) or its salts. Necessary measures for other POPs wastes are also being considered to promote appropriate treatment of these wastes.

## **4. Environmental monitoring**

In Japan, environmental monitoring on a continuous basis was initiated in 1978 for wildlife and in 1986 for water and bottom sediment to understand and monitor long term trends of the presence of chemical substances in the environment. The measurements have been conducted, in principle, using the same sampling and analytical methods with occasional minor adjustments as necessary. Monitoring of POPs was added in 2002 to the Environmental Survey and Monitoring of Chemicals as a new monitoring survey. This survey aims to monitor the quantity of POPs in Japan and verify the effectiveness of the measures for eliminating and reducing their emission.

Nationwide monitoring of dioxins was started in 1985 for bottom sediment, rivers, lakes, seawater and aquatic organisms, and in 1986 for ambient air. In 1998, water and soil also became subject to nationwide monitoring of dioxins. Furthermore, since 2000, local public authorities have been implementing a larger-scale monitoring program as part of the continuous monitoring program under the Dioxins Law.

Local public authorities monitor PCBs in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, seawater and groundwater as part of the continuous monitoring program for public water quality under the Water Pollution Prevention Act (Act No.138 of 1970). PFOS and PFOA are designated as Monitoring Substances and are monitored in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, seawater and groundwater by local public authorities according to local circumstances.

## **Section 3 Current situations and problems surrounding POPs**

### **1. Status of general environment**

This section outlines the annual trends of concentration of 31 POPs in each environmental medium in Japan and the current situation surrounding POPs. These are based on the results of environmental monitoring conducted up to FY2022. The section also briefly addresses the monitoring survey of POPs chemicals which were adopted to be listed in the Annexes of the Stockholm Convention at the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (dechlorane plus, methoxychlor and UV-328). Inter-annual trends are based on the results of surveys conducted after the introduction of a new high-sensitive analytical method in FY2002, which significantly improved the detection limit (see Table 1 to 3 of the Appendix for the past activities in environmental monitoring and current analytical methods used.).

## **(1) Dioxins**

### **(i) Air**

The government started monitoring dioxins in ambient air in FY1986. Since FY1997, it has conducted annual surveys under the Air Pollution Control Law. Since FY2000, local public authorities have been conducting such surveys on a large scale as the regular observation under the Dioxins Law.

Regarding FY2022 surveys;

- A total of 1,654 specimens from 620 sites across the country were surveyed. Of the 570 sites that satisfy the evaluation criteria of the environmental quality standard (0.6 pg-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup>, with measurements conducted more than twice throughout the year, including summer and winter seasons), the annual average dioxin concentration was 0.015 pg-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup>, in the range of 0.0024 to 0.31 pg-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup> (see Table 4 of the Appendix). Of these sites, no site exceeded the environmental quality standard for ambient air (excess rate of 0.0 %).
- Surveys for the PCDDs/PCDFs concentration have been continued at 20 sites. The average concentration of PCDDs/PCDFs at these sites decreased substantially to 0.015 pg-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup>, compared with 0.57 pg-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup> in FY1997, but has not shown a significant decreasing trend in recent years.

### **(ii) Public waters**

The government started surveys on the quality of public waters in FY1998. Since FY2000, local public authorities have been conducting such surveys on a large scale as regular observation under the Dioxins Law.

Regarding FY2022 surveys;

- A total of 1,753 specimens from 1,348 sites across the country showed average dioxin concentration of 0.18 pg-TEQ/L, in the range of 0.0012 to 2.3 pg-TEQ/L (see Table 4 of the Appendix). Of these sites, 28 sites (27 sites in rivers and one site in lake) exceeded the environmental quality standard for water, with an annual average of 1 pg-TEQ/L or less (excess rate of 2.1%).
- Surveys have been continued at 569 sites. The average concentration of dioxins at these sites was 0.26 pg-TEQ/L. In recent years, the concentrations were almost half of those in FY2000 (0.38 pg-TEQ/L), but the concentration increased in FY2022.

### **(iii) Bottom sediment in public waters**

The government started surveys on bottom sediment in public waters in FY1985. Since FY2000, local public authorities have been conducting such surveys on a large scale as the regular

observation under the Dioxins Law.

Regarding FY2022 surveys;

- A total of 1,199 specimens from 1,120 sites across the country showed average dioxin concentration of 6.1 pg-TEQ/g-dry, in the range of 0.033 to 470 pg-TEQ/g-dry (see Table 4 of the Appendix). Of these sites, three sites in rivers exceeded the environmental quality standard for bottom sediment of 150 pg-TEQ/g or less (excess rate of 0.3%).
- Surveys have been continued at 373 sites. The average concentration of dioxins at these sites was 8.8 pg-TEQ/g-dry, which is almost half of the concentration in FY2000 (19 pg-TEQ/g-dry), but has not shown a significant decreasing trend in recent years.

#### (iv) Groundwater

The government started surveys on groundwater in FY1998. Since FY2000, local public authorities have been conducting such surveys on a large scale as the regular observation under the Dioxins Law.

Regarding FY2022 surveys;

- A total of 459 specimens from 459 sites across the country showed average dioxin concentration of 0.045 pg-TEQ/L, in the range of 0.00018 to 0.56 pg-TEQ/L (see Table 4 of the Appendix). All sites achieved the environmental standard for water, with an annual average of 1 pg-TEQ/L or less.

#### (v) Soil

The government started surveys on soil in FY1998. Since FY2000, local public authorities have been conducting such surveys on a large scale as the regular observation under the Dioxins Law.

Regarding FY2022 surveys;

- A total of 697 specimens from 697 sites across the country showed average dioxin concentration of 2.3 pg-TEQ/g-dry in the range of 0 to 130 pg-TEQ/g-dry (see Table 4 of the Appendix). Of these sites, no site exceeded the environmental quality standard for soil of 1,000 pg-TEQ/g-dry or less (excess rate of 0.0%).
- The average dioxin concentration at 505 sites, targeted in a general environmental survey, was 1.6 pg-TEQ/g-dry, in the range of 0 to 67 pg-TEQ/g-dry. The average dioxin concentration at 192 sites, targeted in a survey of areas surrounding sources, was 4.2 pg-TEQ/g-dry, in the range of 0 to 130 pg-TEQ/g-dry.

#### (vi) Aquatic organisms

The government implemented surveys on aquatic organisms from FY1985 to FY1999.

Regarding FY1999 surveys;

- A total of 2,832 specimens of fish, crustaceans and shellfish from 543 sites showed an average dioxin concentration of 1.4 pg-TEQ/g-wet, in the range of 0.032 to 33 pg-TEQ/g-wet. The average concentration was slightly lower, and the concentration range remained at almost the same level compared with the results in FY1998 (an average of 2.1pg-TEQ/g-wet and a range of 0.0022 to 30 pg-TEQ/g-wet).

(vii) Wild mammals/birds

The government implemented surveys on wildlife from FY1997 to FY2007. (In FY2007, a study was carried out on the following four species: the great cormorant, the finless porpoise, the large Japanese field mouse and the raccoon dog, totaling 41 specimens.)

- Accumulated concentrations remained at the same level compared with the past surveys.
- The surveys indicated that although the amount of environmentally released dioxins had decreased due to measures taken at the emission source, its effect on the accumulated concentration in wildlife is limited or will take time.

(viii) Human

The government started surveys on human in FY2002. Since FY2011, a more efficient monitoring study has been conducted concerning the chemicals in the human body. To determine the bioaccumulation in human bodies and the exposure concentrations, measurements of concentrations in blood and diet have been carried out in three different areas. Furthermore, the surveys have been conducted as a pilot study to identify issues related to the feasibility of recruiting methods for survey participants and to examine areas for improvement since FY2018.

Regarding FY2022 surveys;

- The average dioxin concentration in blood for 89 people was 5.6 pg-TEQ/g-fat, and the concentrations were in the range of 0.093 to 18 pg-TEQ/g-fat.

## **(2) Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**

The government continuously monitored PCBs in wildlife from FY1978 to FY2001. As for air, water and sediments, a highly sensitive analytical method has been used since FY2000, and a descriptive analysis has been done for congeners and coplanar PCBs. Using this method, the government has been monitoring the concentration levels in wildlife, air, water and sediments annually with its monitoring survey since FY2002.

(i) Wildlife

- Especially in Tokyo Bay, Osaka Bay and offshore of Himeji, which are semi-closed

water areas located close to densely populated districts, PCB concentrations in sea bass were relatively high, compared with specimens from other areas.

- A statistically significant decreasing trend was observed from FY2002 to FY2022 for bivalves and fish. Regarding the FY2022 survey, PCBs were detected at all three sites for bivalves, 18 sites for fish and two sites for birds. The range of total PCB concentrations was from 0.23 to 10 ng/g-wet, from 0.6 to 150 ng/g-wet, from 190 to 200 ng/g-wet for bivalves, fish and birds, respectively.

#### (ii) Air

- A statistically significant decrease in PCB concentration for warm season was observed from FY2003 to FY2022.
- Regarding the FY2022 surveys, PCBs were detected at all 36 sites, with total concentration range of 18 to 190 pg/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### (iii) Water

- Statistically significant decreases in PCB concentrations in rivers, lakes and estuaries were observed from FY2002 to FY2022. Reduction tendency in specimens from overall areas was also identified as statistically significant.
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, PCBs were detected at 46 out of 48 sites, and the total concentrations in water varied from ND (not detected, i.e. less than the detectable limit) to 3,900 pg/L (detection limit: 5 pg/L). The PCB concentrations exceeded 1,000 pg/L in ports and estuaries near large cities, such as Tokyo Bay and Osaka Bay.

#### (iv) Sediment

- A statistically significant decrease was observed from FY2002 to FY2022 for rivers, estuaries and sea area. Reduction tendency in specimens from the overall areas was also identified as statistically significant.
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, PCBs were detected at all 61 sites, and the total concentrations in bottom sediment varied from 20 to 340,000 pg/g-dry. PCBs were detected at the order of 100,000 pg/g-dry mainly in ports and estuaries near large cities, such as Tokyo Bay and Osaka Bay.

The environmental quality standard for water and soil requires that PCBs should not be detected by the gas chromatography method at the quantification limit of 0.0005 mg/L. The FY2022 survey on public waters and groundwater ascertained that all measured sites met the standard.

### **(3) Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)**

The government monitored the HCB concentration in wildlife from 1978 to 2001, excluding 1997 and 1999. The HCB concentration in air was first measured in 1999 in the Survey on Development of an Analytic Method for Chemicals and then in the Environmental Survey on Endocrine Disruptors. As for HCB concentration in water and sediment, the government has implemented monitoring surveys from 1986 to 1998 and from 1986 to 2001, respectively. A high-sensitive analytical method was introduced in FY2002, and the HCB concentration levels in wildlife, air, water and sediment have been monitored annually.

#### **(i) Wildlife**

- No significant trend was observed from FY2002 to FY2022 for bivalves and fish.
- HCB has been detected at nearly all sites since FY2002. Regarding FY2022 surveys, HCB concentrations ranged from 7.6 to 9.1 pg/g-wet, 16 to 710 pg/g-wet and 1,800 to 2,300 pg/g-wet for bivalves, fish and birds, respectively. HCB was detected at all three sites for bivalves, 18 sites for fish and two sites for birds.

#### **(ii) Air**

- No significant trend was observed from FY2002 to FY2022.
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, HCB was detected at all 36 sites, and concentrations in air ranged from 71 to 140 pg/m<sup>3</sup> (warm season).

#### **(iii) Water**

- Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2022 indicated decreasing trends in rivers, lakes and estuaries. In sea area, the concentrations obtained in the recent seven years of the survey period were indicated lower than those in the first seven years as statistically significant, suggesting a decreasing trend. A reduction tendency in specimens from overall areas in surface water was also identified as statistically significant. Regarding FY2022 surveys, HCB was detected at all 48 sites, and concentrations in water ranged from 1.6 to 70 pg/L.

#### **(iv) Sediments**

- A statistically significant decrease in HCB concentration in rivers and sea areas was observed from FY2002 to FY2022. A reduction tendency in sediment from overall areas was also identified as statistically significant.
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, HCB was detected at all 61 sites, with concentrations



ranging from 1.6 to 4,800 pg/g-dry.

#### **(4) Aldrin, dieldrin and endrin**

The government monitored aldrin and endrin in biological specimens annually from FY1978 to FY1989, and then in FY1991 and FY1993. The monitoring of dieldrin in wildlife was conducted annually from FY1978 to FY2001 (except in FY1997 and FY1999). Subsequently, annual surveys using a high-sensitive method were conducted from FY2002 to FY2009 on wildlife, air, water and sediment.

Although drins were once used within the country, the environmental concentrations stayed constant over the years. Thus, with the increasing number of chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention, the frequency of governmental surveys was reviewed and it was decided that drins would be monitored less frequently after FY2009.

For aldrin, dieldrin and endrin in sediment, the results obtained in FY2018 are presented below. Since no survey was conducted after FY2015 for aldrin, dieldrin and endrin in wildlife, air and water, only the results obtained before the FY2014 surveys are summarized below.

##### **(i) Wildlife**

- No significant trend was observed from FY2002 to FY2014 for aldrin, dieldrin and endrin.
- Dieldrin was detected at all sites since FY2002. Regarding FY2014 surveys, dieldrin was detected at all three sites for bivalves, 19 sites for fish and two sites for birds, with concentrations ranging from 41 to 490 pg/g-wet, 27 to 1,000 pg/g-wet, and 190 to 530 pg/g-wet for bivalves, fish and birds, respectively.
- Regarding FY2014 surveys, endrin was detected at all three sites for bivalves, at 18 out of 19 sites for fish and at two sites for birds, with concentrations ranging from 8 to 84 pg/g-wet for bivalves, ND to 140 pg/g-wet for fish, and 4 to 5 pg/g-wet for birds (detection limit: 1 pg/g-wet).
- Aldrin was detected only in fish at concentration ranges of ND to 2.4 pg/g-wet, with a detection limit of 0.7 pg/g-wet. Aldrin was not detected in bivalves and birds.

##### **(ii) Air**

- No significant trend was observed from FY2002 to FY2014 for aldrin, dieldrin or endrin.
- Regarding FY2014 surveys, dieldrin was detected at all 36 sites and endrin detected at 32 out of 36 sites.
- The concentrations of dieldrin ranged from 0.89 to 160 pg/m<sup>3</sup> (for warm season). Furthermore, the concentrations of endrin ranged from ND to 2.9 pg/m<sup>3</sup> (for warm

season) (detection limit for endrin: 0.07 pg/m<sup>3</sup>).

- Regarding FY2014 surveys, aldrin was detected at concentrations ranging from ND to 17 pg/m<sup>3</sup> (for warm season) at six out of 34 sites (detection limit: 4 pg/m<sup>3</sup>).

#### (iii) Water

- Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2014 indicated a significant decreasing trend in concentration of endrin in lakes and sea areas. No significant trend was observed from FY2002 to FY2014 for endrin and dieldrin in overall areas. As for aldrin, no significant trend was observed from FY2002 to FY2009.
- Regarding FY2014 surveys, dieldrin and endrin were detected at all 48 sites at concentrations ranging from 2.7 to 200 pg/L and 0.4 to 25 pg/L, respectively.
- Regarding FY2009 surveys, aldrin was detected at 32 out of 49 sites at concentrations ranging from ND to 22 pg/L (detection limit: 0.3 pg/L).

#### (iv) Sediment

- Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2018 indicated a significant decreasing trend in the concentration of aldrin in sea areas, and dieldrin in rivers. Decreasing trends in the concentration of aldrin and dieldrin in overall areas were also identified as statistically significant. No significant trend was observed from FY2002 to FY2018 for endrin.
- Regarding FY2018 surveys, aldrin was detected at 50 out of 61 sites at concentration levels of ND to 270 pg/g-dry. Dieldrin was detected at 60 out of 61 sites with concentration levels ranging from ND to 860 pg/g-dry. Endrin was detected at 48 out of 61 sites at concentrations levels of ND to 7,500 pg/g-dry (detection limit: 0.6 pg/g-dry for aldrin and dieldrin, 0.9 pg/g-dry for endrin).

### (5) DDT

The government began monitoring DDTs (p,p'-DDT, o,p'-DDT, p,p'-DDE, o,p'-DDE, p,p'-DDD and o,p'-DDD) on biological specimens in FY1978. Water and bottom sediment specimens were monitored for p,p'-DDT, p,p'-DDE and p,p'-DDD from FY1986 to 1998 and from FY1986 to 2001, respectively. In 2002, a high-sensitivity analytical method was adopted, and monitoring has continued for six DDTs in all specimens. However, it was decided that DDTs would be monitored less frequently after FY2009.

#### (i) Wildlife

- Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2021 indicated a significant decreasing trend in the concentrations of all six DDTs in bivalves. The decreases in the concentrations of

p,p'-DDT, p,p'-DDD, o,p'-DDT and o,p'-DDE in fish were also identified as statistically significant.

- Regarding FY2021 surveys, all of the six DDTs were detected at all three sites for bivalves, 18 sites for fish and two sites for birds. The total concentrations in bivalves, fish and birds were within the ranges of 140 to 3,200 pg/g-wet, 340 to 12,000 pg/g-wet and 64,000 to 100,000 pg/g-wet, respectively.

#### (ii) Air

- Statistical analysis from FY2003 to FY2021 indicated a significant decreasing trend in the concentrations of p,p'-DDT, p,p'-DDE, o,p'-DDT and o,p'-DDE in warm season. For p,p'-DDD, although the number of detections was small, the detection rate of specimens from warm season decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency in concentrations. For o,p'-DDD, the concentrations obtained in the recent six years period in specimens from warm season were indicated lower than those in the first six years as statistically significant, suggesting a decreasing trend.
- Regarding FY2021 surveys, all six DDTs were detected at all 35 sites in warm season, with total concentration ranged of 0.70 to 31 pg/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### (iii) Water

- Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2021 indicated a significant decreasing trend in the concentrations of p,p'-DDT in lakes, estuaries and overall areas, p,p'-DDE in rivers, sea areas and overall areas, p,p'-DDD in rivers, lakes, estuaries and overall areas, o,p'-DDT in rivers, estuaries and overall areas, and o,p'-DDE in lakes and estuaries. For o,p'-DDT in sea areas and o,p'-DDE in sea areas and overall areas, the concentrations obtained in the recent six of the study period were indicated lower than those in the first six years as statistically significant, suggesting a decreasing trend. For o,p'-DDT in lakes and o,p'-DDE in rivers, although the number of detections was small, the detection rate of specimens from warm season decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency in concentrations. No significant trend was observed for o,p'-DDD.
- Regarding FY2021 surveys, all six DDTs were detected at all 47 sites. The total concentrations were in the range of tr(2.5) to 500 pg/L.

#### (iv) Sediment

- Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2021 indicated a significant decreasing trend in the concentrations of p,p'-DDT in overall areas, p,p'-DDD in sea areas and overall areas, o,p'-DDT in rivers and overall areas, and o,p'-DDD in rivers. No significant trend was

observed from FY2002 to FY2021 for p,p'-DDE and o,p'-DDE.

- Regarding FY2021 surveys, all six DDTs were detected at all 60 sites with the concentration range varied from 22 to 46,000 pg/g-dry.

## **(6) Chlordane**

Chlordanes (trans-chlordane, cis-chlordane, trans-nonachlor, cis-nonachlor and oxychlordane) were monitored in wildlife from FY1983 to FY2001. As for water and sediment specimens, monitoring surveys were conducted from FY1986 to FY1998 and FY1986 to FY2001, respectively, for five isomers excluding oxychlordane.

Between FY2002 and FY2013, the government conducted annual monitoring surveys for wildlife, air, water and sediment, however it was decided that chlordanes would be monitored less frequently after FY2014. The results obtained in FY2020 are presented below.

### **(i) Wildlife**

- For bivalves and fish, statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2020 indicated a significant decreasing trend in the concentrations of cis-chlordane, cis-nonachlor and trans-nonachlor in bivalves and oxychlordane in fish.
- Regarding FY2020 surveys, all five chlordanes have been detected at all three sites for bivalves, 18 sites for fish and one site for birds. The total concentrations ranged from 140 to 1,700 pg/g-wet for bivalves, 200 to 12,000 pg/g-wet for fish, and 1,500 pg/g-wet for birds.

### **(ii) Air**

- Since FY2002, chlordanes have been detected at all sites. Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2020 indicated a significant decreasing trend in the concentrations of all five chlordanes during the warm season.
- Regarding FY2020 surveys, chlordanes were detected in all 37 sites, and total concentrations ranged from 4.0 to 600 pg/m<sup>3</sup> for warm season.

### **(iii) Water**

- Since FY2002, chlordanes have been detected at almost all sites. Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2020 indicated a significant decreasing trend in the concentrations of cis-chlordane in rivers, estuaries, sea areas and overall areas, and trans-chlordane in overall areas. A reduction tendency in the concentrations of cis-nonachlor in rivers, and trans-nonachlor in rivers and overall areas was also identified as statistically significant. For oxychlordane in rivers, the concentrations obtained in the recent six years of the

survey period were indicated lower than those in the first six years as statistically significant, suggesting a decreasing trend.

- Regarding FY2020 surveys, chlordanes were detected at 45 out of 46 sites, with the total concentrations ranged from ND to 350 pg/L (detection limit: 8 pg/L).

#### (iv) Sediment

- The chlordanes concentration in bottom sediment tends to be relatively high near large cities. Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2020 indicated a significant decreasing trend in the concentrations of cis-chlordane, trans-chlordane, and trans-nonachlor in rivers, estuaries, sea areas and overall areas, and cis-nonachlor in rivers, sea areas and overall areas. For oxychlordane in estuaries and overall areas, the concentrations obtained in the recent six years of the survey period were indicated lower than those in the first six years as statistically significant, suggesting a decreasing trend.
- Regarding FY2020 surveys, chlordanes were detected at all 58 sites, with the total concentrations ranged from 5.1 to 15,000 pg/g-dry.

### (7) Heptachlor

The government began monitoring heptachlor in water, bottom sediment and wildlife in 1982, and in air in 1986. The heptachlor epoxide concentration in water, bottom sediment and wildlife was measured in 1982 and 1996, and in air in 1986. Annual surveys using a high-sensitive analytical method were conducted from FY2002 for heptachlor and from FY2003 for cis-heptachlor epoxide and trans-heptachlor epoxide. However, it was decided to monitor them less frequently after FY2013. The results obtained in FY2020 are presented below.

#### (i) Wildlife

- Although the number of detections was small, the detection rate of specimens from fish decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency in concentrations from FY2002 to FY2020.
- Regarding FY2020 surveys, cis-heptachlor epoxide was detected at all three sites for bivalves, 18 sites for fish and one site for birds. Heptachlor was detected at one out of three sites for bivalves and at six out of 18 sites for fish, but it was not detected in birds (detection limit: 1 pg/g-wet). Trans-heptachlor epoxide was not detected in any of the wildlife (detection limit: 4pg/g-wet). The total concentrations of heptachlors (heptachlor, cis-heptachlor epoxide and trans-heptachlor epoxide) ranged from ND to 96 pg/g-wet for bivalves, ND to 320 pg/g-wet for fish and 270 pg/g-wet for birds (detection limit: 6 pg/g-wet).

(ii) Air

- Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2020 indicated a significant decreasing trend in the concentrations of heptachlor and cis-heptachlor epoxide for warm seasons. For trans-heptachlor epoxide, although the number of detections was small, the detection rate decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency in concentrations.
- Regarding FY2020 surveys, heptachlor and cis-heptachlor epoxide were detected at all 37 sites in warm season. Trans-heptachlor epoxide was not detected in any site (detection limit 0.05 pg/m<sup>3</sup>). The total concentrations of heptachlors ranged from 1.0 to 38 pg/m<sup>3</sup> for warm season.

(iii) Water

- Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2020 indicated a significant decreasing trend in the concentrations of cis-heptachlor epoxide in rivers, sea areas and overall areas. For heptachlor in overall areas, although the number of detections was small, the detection rate decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency in concentrations.
- Regarding FY2020 surveys, cis-heptachlor epoxide was detected at 44 out of 46 sites, while heptachlor was detected at five sites and trans-heptachlor epoxide was not detected in any site (detection limit: 1 pg/L for heptachlor, 0.7 pg/L for trans-heptachlor epoxide). The total concentrations of heptachlors ranged from ND to 37 pg/L and were detected at 28 out of 46 sites (detection limit: 3 pg/L).

(iv) Sediment

- Based on the statistical analysis from FY2003 to FY2020 on heptachlor in estuaries, and cis-heptachlor epoxide in estuaries and overall areas, the concentrations obtained in the last six years of the survey period were indicated lower than those in the first six years as statistically significant, suggesting a decreasing trend. For heptachlor in rivers and overall areas, and cis-heptachlor epoxide in sea areas, although the number of detections was small, the detection rate decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency in concentrations.
- Regarding FY2020 surveys, cis-heptachlor epoxide was detected at 40 out of 58 sites, while heptachlor was detected at 43 sites, and trans-heptachlor epoxide was detected at one out of 58 sites (detection limit: 0.7 pg/g-dry for cis-heptachlor epoxide, 0.2 pg/g-dry for heptachlor, 0.4 pg/g-dry for trans-heptachlor epoxide). The total concentrations of heptachlors ranged from ND to 120 pg/g-dry (detection limit: 1.2 pg/g-dry).

## **(8) Toxaphene**

The government began monitoring toxaphene in water and bottom sediment in 1983. No toxaphene was detected above the minimum detectable level of 0.3 to 0.6 µg/L for water and 0.01 to 0.04 µg/g-dry for bottom sediment. A high-sensitive analytical method was introduced in FY2003, and Parlar-26, Parlar-50, and Parlar-62 have been monitored annually as toxaphenes. With the increasing number of chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention, the frequency of surveys was reviewed, and it was decided to monitor toxaphenes less frequently after FY2010 since toxaphenes were never used domestically.

### **(i) Wildlife**

- Regarding FY2018 surveys, Parlar-26 was detected in the concentration range of ND to tr(15) pg/g-wet for bivalves, ND to 280 pg/g-wet for fish and 53 to 54 pg/g-wet for birds (detection limit: 8 pg/g-wet; Parlar-26 was detected at two out of three sites for bivalves, 12 out of 18 sites for fish and all two sites for birds). Parlar-50 was detected in concentrations ranging from ND to 17 pg/g-wet for bivalves, ND to 300 pg/g-wet for fish and tr(11) to tr(13) pg/g-wet for birds (detection limit: 6 pg/g-wet; Parlar-50 was detected at two out of three sites for bivalves, 16 out of 18 sites for fish and all two sites for birds). Parlar-62 was only detected in fish, and its concentrations ranging from ND to 150 pg/g-wet (detection limit: 40 pg/g-wet; Parlar-62 was detected at 3 out of 18 sites for fish). Parlar -62 was not detected at all three sites for bivalves and two sites for birds (detection limit: 40 pg/g-wet).

### **(ii) Air**

- Regarding FY2018 surveys, Parlar-26 was detected at 12 out of 37 sites in warm season with the concentration range of ND to tr(0.3) pg/m<sup>3</sup> (detection limit: 0.2 pg/m<sup>3</sup>). Parlar-50 was detected at two out of 37 sites in concentrations ranging from ND to tr(0.2) pg/m<sup>3</sup> (detection limit: 0.2 pg/m<sup>3</sup>). Parlar-62 was not detected at all 37 sites (detection limit: 0.2 pg/m<sup>3</sup>).

### **(iii) Water**

- Regarding FY 2018 surveys, Parlar-26 was detected at seven out of 47 sites with the concentration range of ND to 5 pg/L (detection limit: 2 pg/L). Parlar-50 was detected at one out of 48 sites with a concentration of tr(2) pg/L (detection limit: 2 pg/L). Parlar-62 was not detected at all 47 sites (detection limit: 20 pg/L).

(iv) Sediment

- Regarding FY 2018 surveys, Parlar-26 was not detected at all 61 sites (detection limit: 3 pg/g-dry). Parlar-50 and Parlar-62 was detected at one out of 61 sites in concentrations ranging from tr(3) pg/g-dry and tr(20) pg/g-dry, respectively (detection limit: 3 pg/g-dry for Parlar-50, and 20 pg/g-dry for Parlar 62).

**(9) Mirex**

The government surveyed the concentration of mirex in water and bottom sediment in 1983, and no mirex was detected above the minimum detectable level of 0.01 µg/L for water and 0.0006 to 0.0024 µg/g-dry for bottom sediment. A high-sensitive analytical method was introduced in FY2003, and annual monitoring was conducted on wildlife, air, water and sediment. With the increasing number of chemicals in the Stockholm Convention, the frequency of surveys was reviewed, and it was decided to monitor mirex less frequently after FY2010, since mirex was never used domestically.

(i) Wildlife

- No statistically significant trend was observed in the surveys from FY2003 to FY2018 for bivalves and fish.
- Regarding FY2018 surveys, mirex was detected at all three sites for bivalves, 18 sites for fish and two sites for birds. The concentrations in bivalves, fish and birds ranged from 1.8 to 20 pg/g-wet, 1.9 to 70 pg/g-wet and 47 to 260 pg/g-wet, respectively.

(ii) Air

- No statistically significant trend was observed in the surveys from FY2003 to FY2018.
- Regarding FY2018 surveys, mirex was detected at all 37 sites in warm season, with concentrations ranging from 0.05 to 0.2 pg/m<sup>3</sup>.

(iii) Water

- No statistically significant trend was observed in the surveys from FY2003 and FY2018.
- Regarding FY2018 surveys, mirex was detected at three out of 47 sites, with concentrations ranging from ND to 1.0 pg/L and a detection limit of 0.3 pg/L.

(iv) Sediment

- No statistically significant trend was observed in the surveys from FY2003 to FY2018.
- Regarding FY2018 survey, mirex was detected at 44 out of 61 sites, with concentrations ranging from ND to 240 pg/g-dry and a detection limit of 0.3 pg/g-dry.



## **(10) Hexachlorocyclohexanes (HCHs)**

HCHs were monitored in wildlife from FY1978 to FY2001 (excluding FY1997 and FY1999), with the main focus on  $\alpha$ -HCH and  $\beta$ -HCH. Water and sediment specimens were also monitored from FY1986 to FY1998 and from FY1986 to FY2001, respectively. Annual surveys in water, sediment and wildlife have been conducted on  $\alpha$ -HCH and  $\beta$ -HCH since FY2002, and  $\gamma$ -HCH and  $\delta$ -HCH since FY2003. Air specimens have also been monitored for all four isomers since FY2009.

The results of the surveys conducted in FY2022 are summarized below.

### **(i) Wildlife**

- Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend of  $\alpha$ -HCH and  $\gamma$ -HCH in bivalves, and  $\alpha$ -HCH and  $\beta$ -HCH in fish. For  $\gamma$ -HCH in fish, the concentrations obtained in the recent seven years of the survey period were indicated lower than those in the first seven years as statistically significant, suggesting a decreasing trend (see Figure 1 of the Appendix).
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, all four HCH isomers were detected at most of the sites surveyed (total sites surveyed: three sites for bivalves, 18 sites for fish and two sites for birds). The concentration of  $\alpha$ -HCH,  $\beta$ -HCH,  $\gamma$ -HCH and  $\delta$ -HCH in bivalves were 2.5 to 16 pg/g-wet, 10 to 35 pg/g-wet, tr(1.0) to 8.4 pg/g-wet and ND to 3.0 pg/g-wet, respectively. The concentrations of  $\alpha$ -HCH,  $\beta$ -HCH,  $\gamma$ -HCH and  $\delta$ -HCH in fish were ND to 82 pg/g-wet, 2.2 to 230 pg/g-wet, ND to 24 pg/g-wet and ND to 5.5 pg/g-wet, respectively. The concentrations of  $\alpha$ -HCH,  $\beta$ -HCH,  $\gamma$ -HCH and  $\delta$ -HCH in birds were 35 to 63 pg/g-wet, 970 to 1,300 pg/g-wet, 1.8 to 6.6 pg/g-wet and 1.2 to 2.1 pg/g-wet, respectively (detection limit of  $\alpha$ -HCH,  $\gamma$ -HCH and  $\delta$ -HCH: 0.4 pg/g-wet).

### **(ii) Air**

- Statistical analysis from FY2009 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend of all four HCH isomers in warm season (see Figure 2 of the Appendix).
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, all four isomers were detected at almost all 34 sites. The concentrations of  $\alpha$ -HCH,  $\beta$ -HCH,  $\gamma$ -HCH and  $\delta$ -HCH in warm season were 2.9 to 100 pg/m<sup>3</sup>, 0.23 to 14 pg/m<sup>3</sup>, 0.63 to 22 pg/m<sup>3</sup> and ND to 12 pg/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively (detection limit of  $\delta$ -HCH: 0.03 pg/m<sup>3</sup>).

### **(iii) Water**

- Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend of

$\alpha$ -HCH in rivers, estuaries, sea areas and overall areas,  $\beta$ -HCH and  $\gamma$ -HCH in rivers, lakes, estuaries, sea areas and overall areas, and  $\delta$ -HCH in rivers. For  $\delta$ -HCH in overall areas, the concentrations obtained in the recent seven years of the survey period were indicated lower than those in the first seven years as statistically significant, suggesting a decreasing trend (see Figure 3 of the Appendix).

- Regarding FY2022 surveys, all four isomers were detected at most of the 48 sites. The concentrations of  $\alpha$ -HCH,  $\beta$ -HCH,  $\gamma$ -HCH and  $\delta$ -HCH were 1.9 to 430 pg/L, 9.5 to 540 pg/L, tr(0.6) to 120 pg/L and ND to 90 pg/L, respectively (detection limit of  $\delta$ -HCH: 0.7 pg/L).

#### (iv) Sediment

- Statistical analysis from FY2002 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend in concentrations of  $\alpha$ -HCH in rivers, estuaries, sea areas and overall areas,  $\beta$ -HCH in estuaries and overall areas,  $\gamma$ -HCH in rivers, sea areas and overall areas, and  $\delta$ -HCH in estuaries, sea areas and overall areas (see Figure 4 of the Appendix).
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, all four isomers were detected at all 61 sites. The concentrations of  $\alpha$ -HCH,  $\beta$ -HCH,  $\gamma$ -HCH and  $\delta$ -HCH ranged from 1.2 to 2,800 pg/g-dry, 2.2 to 2,900 pg/g-dry, tr(0.7) to 2,100 pg/g-dry and tr(0.6) to 2,300 pg/g-dry, respectively.

### (11) Hexabromobiphenyl (HBB)

The government conducted wildlife monitoring of HBB in FY1989, monitoring of water and sediment in FY1989 and FY2003, and air monitoring in FY1989 and FY2004. HBB was monitored annually from FY2009 to FY2011, and was monitored less frequently after FY2012. The results of the surveys conducted in FY2015 for wildlife, air, and sediment, and those conducted in FY2011 for water are summarized below.

Regarding FY2015 surveys, HBB was not detected in wildlife at any site (detection limit: 5 pg/g-wet). Furthermore, HBB was detected at nine out of 62 sites in sediment specimens, with concentrations ranging from ND to 15 pg/g-dry (detection limit: 0.3 pg/g-dry), and in air, with concentrations ranging from ND to 1.1 pg/m<sup>3</sup> (detection limit: 0.02 pg/m<sup>3</sup>). They were not detected in water in FY2011 (detection limit: 0.9 pg/L).

### (12) Polybromodiphenyl ethers

The government has been monitoring polybromodiphenyl ethers (limited to congeners with four to ten bromines) in wildlife since FY2008 and in air, water and sediment since FY2009 (except in FY2013).

(i) Wildlife

- Statistical analysis from FY2008 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend in polybromodiphenyl ethers with four and five bromines in bivalves, and those with four to six bromines in fish. For polybromodiphenyl ethers with nine and ten bromines in fish, although the number of detections was small, the detection rate decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency.
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, polybromodiphenyl ethers were detected at one out of three sites for bivalves, 15 out of 18 sites for fish and two sites for birds. The total concentrations ranged from ND to 140 pg/g-wet for bivalves, ND to 430 pg/g-wet for fish, and 820 to 1,300 pg/g-wet for birds (detection limit: 23 pg/g-wet).

(ii) Air

- Statistical analysis from FY2009 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend in polybromodiphenyl ethers with four bromines in warm season. For polybromodiphenyl ethers with five to ten bromines, although the number of detections was small, the detection rate decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency.
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, polybromodiphenyl ethers were detected at 28 out of 36 sites in warm season, with total concentrations ranging from ND to 17 pg/m<sup>3</sup> (detection limit: 1.4 pg/m<sup>3</sup>).

(iii) Water

- Based on statistical analysis from FY2009 to FY2022, for polybromodiphenyl ethers with four to seven bromines in rivers and sea areas, polybromodiphenyl ethers with five to seven bromines in estuaries, and polybromodiphenyl ethers with four, five and eight bromines in overall areas, although the number of detections was small, the detection rate decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency.
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, polybromodiphenyl ethers were detected at 45 out of 48 sites, with total concentrations ranging from ND to 6,300 pg/L (detection limit: 15 pg/L).

(iv) Sediment

- Based on statistical analysis from FY2009 to FY2022, for polybromodiphenyl ethers with four to eight bromines in rivers, although the number of detections was small, the detection rate decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency.
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, polybromodiphenyl ethers were detected at 59 out of 61 sites, with total concentrations ranging from ND to 460,000 pg/g-dry (detection limit:

22 pg/g-dry).

### **(13) Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)**

The government conducted monitoring surveys on PFOS for wildlife and sediment in FY2003 and FY2005, water monitoring in FY2002 and FY2005 and air monitoring in FY2004. PFOS has been continually monitored since FY2009. Furthermore, the government began monitoring PFOS in human blood in FY2008. Since FY2018, the surveys have been conducted as a pilot study to identify issues related to the feasibility of recruiting methods for survey participants and to examine areas for improvement.

#### **(i) Wildlife**

- No statistically significant trend was observed in the surveys from FY2009 and FY2022.
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, PFOS was detected at all three sites for bivalves, 18 sites for fish and two sites for birds, with concentrations ranging from 9 to 160 pg/g-wet for bivalves, 9 to 7,200 pg/g-wet for fish, and 5,200 to 100,000 pg/g-wet for birds.

#### **(ii) Air**

- Statistical analysis from FY2010 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend of PFOS in warm season (see Figure 5 of the Appendix).
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, PFOS was detected at all 36 sites in warm season, with concentrations ranging from 1.2 to 8.6 pg/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### **(iii) Water**

- Statistical analysis from FY2009 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend of PFOS in lakes, sea areas and overall areas (see Figure 5 of the Appendix).
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, PFOS was detected at 46 out of 48 sites, with concentrations ranging from ND to 3,600 pg/L (detection limit: 30 pg/L).

#### **(iv) Sediment**

- Statistical analysis from FY2009 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend of PFOS in estuaries, sea areas and overall areas (see Figure 5 of the Appendix).
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, PFOS was detected at all 61 sites, with concentrations ranging from tr(5) to 710 pg/g-dry.

#### **(iv) Human**

- Regarding FY2023 surveys, the average concentration of PFOS in the whole blood of

108 participants was 2.2 ng/mL, and ranged from 0.22 to 10 ng/mL.

PFOS was designated as Monitoring Substance in 2020 and is monitored in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, sea waters and groundwaters by local public authorities according to local circumstances. Surveys on PFOS were conducted at 1,258 sites in FY2022 (see Figure 5 of the Appendix).

#### **(14) Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB)**

The government conducted surveys on PeCB for wildlife from FY1979 to FY1985, every other year from FY1986 to FY1996, in FY1999, FY2007, and from FY2010 to FY2022. PeCB was monitored in water in FY1979, FY2007, and from FY2010 to FY2022 (except for FY2016). Monitoring survey in sediment was conducted in FY1979, FY2007, and from FY 2010 to FY2022. Air monitoring was conducted in FY1994, FY1999 and from FY2007 to FY2022 (except for FY2008).

##### **(i) Wildlife**

- Based on statistical analysis from FY2007 to FY2022, although the number of detections was small, the detection rate decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency (see Figure 6 of the Appendix).
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, PeCB was detected at all three sites for bivalves, 18 sites for fish and two sites for birds, with concentrations ranging from 1.9 to 9.8 pg/g-wet for bivalves, 3.6 to 78 pg/g-wet for fish, and 260 to 330 pg/g-wet for birds.

##### **(ii) Air**

- No statistically significant trend was observed in the surveys from FY2007 to FY2022.
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, PeCB was detected at all 36 sites in warm season, with concentrations ranging from 30 to 130 pg/m<sup>3</sup>.

##### **(iii) Water**

- Statistical analysis from FY2010 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend of PeCB in rivers, and overall areas (see Figure 6 of the Appendix).
- Regarding FY2022 surveys, PeCB was detected at all 48 sites, with concentrations ranging from 0.9 to 51 pg/L.

##### **(iv) Sediment**

- Statistical analysis from FY2010 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend of

PeCB in sea areas and overall areas (see Figure 6 of the Appendix).

- Regarding FY2022 surveys, PeCB was detected at all 61 sites, with concentrations ranging from tr(0.5) to 1,300 pg/g-dry.

### **(15) Chlordecone**

The government conducted surveys of chlordecone for air in FY2003, and for wildlife, water and sediment in FY2008. In FY2010 and FY2011, the surveys for wildlife, air, water and sediment was conducted. Regarding FY2011 surveys, chlordecone was not detected in bivalves (four sites), in fish (18 sites), in bird (one site) and in air (37 sites) (detection limit: wildlife 0.2 pg/g-wet and air 0.02 pg/m<sup>3</sup>). Chlordecone was detected at 15 out of 49 sites for water and nine out of 64 sites for sediment. The concentrations in water and sediment ranged from ND to 0.7 pg/L and ND to 1.5 pg/g-dry, respectively (detection limit: water 0.05 pg/L and sediment 0.20 pg/g-dry).

### **(16) Endosulfan**

Isomers of endosulfans ( $\alpha$ -endosulfan and  $\beta$ -endosulfan) were monitored in wildlife from FY2011 to FY2015 (except for FY2013) and in FY2020, in air from FY2011 to FY2016 (except for FY2013) and in FY2021, in water and sediment in FY2011 and FY2012, FY2018 and FY2021.

Regarding the FY2021 surveys, endosulfans were not detected for bivalves (three sites), for fish (18 sites), and for birds (two sites) (detection limit: 30 pg/g-wet). Endosulfans were detected in air at all 35 sites, with total concentrations ranging from ND to 6.0 pg/m<sup>3</sup> in the FY 2021 surveys (detection limit: 0.5 pg/m<sup>3</sup>). Endosulfans were also detected at 12 out of 47 sites in water and 33 out of 60 sites in sediment, with total concentrations ranging from ND to 830 pg/L and ND to 110 pg/g-dry, respectively (detection limit: 50 pg/L for water and 1.5 pg/g-dry for sediment).

### **(17) Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD)**

HBCDs ( $\alpha$ -HBCD,  $\beta$ -HBCD,  $\gamma$ -HBCD,  $\delta$ -HBCD and  $\epsilon$ -HBCD) were monitored in wildlife from FY2011 to FY2019 (except for FY2013) and in FY2022, in air from FY2012 to FY2019 (except for FY2013 and FY2018) and in FY2022. Monitoring surveys were also conducted in water in FY2011, FY2014 and FY2022, and in sediment in FY2011, FY2012, FY2015, FY2016, FY2022.

Regarding the FY2022 surveys, HBCDs were detected at two out of three sites for bivalves, nine out of 18 sites for fish and all two sites for birds, at concentration ranges of ND to 270 pg/g-wet for bivalves, ND to 480 pg/g-wet for fish, 460 to 750 pg/g-wet for birds (detection

limit: 100 pg/g-wet). HBCDs were detected at 31 out of 36 sites for air, at the concentrations ranging from ND to 26 pg/m<sup>3</sup> (detection limit: 0.18 pg/m<sup>3</sup>). HBCDs were also detected at 33 out of 61 sites for sediment, at the concentration ranging from ND to 38,000 pg/g-dry (detection limit: 240pg/g-dry). In water, HBCDs were not detected at any of the 48 sites (detection limit: 1,200 pg/L).

#### **(18) Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs)**

PCNs (congeners with one to eight chlorines) were monitored in wildlife from FY1978 to FY1985, every other year from FY1987 to FY1993, and in FY2002, FY2006, FY2008, and annually from FY2015 to FY2021 (except for FY2020). Monitoring surveys were conducted for water in FY2001, FY2008, FY2018, FY2019 and FY2021, and for sediment in FY2001, FY2008 and from FY2016 to FY2021 (except for FY2020). Monitoring surveys in air were conducted in FY1998, FY2002, FY2008, FY2014, from FY2016 to FY2021 (except for FY2020).

Regarding the FY2021 surveys, PCNs were detected at two out of three sites for bivalves, at all 18 sites for fish and at all two sites for birds, with the total concentrations ranging from ND to 600 pg/g-wet for bivalves, tr(14) to 360 pg/g-wet for fish, and 250 to 330 pg/g-wet for birds (detection limit: 13 pg/g-wet). PCNs were detected at 29 out of 47 sites for water, at 59 out of 60 sites for sediment, and at all 35 sites for air, with the total concentrations range of ND to 170 pg/L for water, ND to 14,000 pg/g-dry for sediment, and 5.3 to 1,000 pg/m<sup>3</sup> for air (detection limit: 6 pg/L for water, 3.6 pg/g-dry for sediment, and 0.3 pg/m<sup>3</sup> for air).

#### **(19) Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD)**

HCBD was monitored in wildlife in FY2007 and FY2013, and was monitored in water and sediment in FY1981, FY2007 and FY2013. HCBD was monitored in air from FY2015 to FY2022, and was monitored in wildlife, water, and sediment from FY2020 to FY2022.

Regarding the FY2022 surveys, HCBD was detected at nine out of 18 sites for fish, with concentrations ranging from ND to 290 pg/g-wet. It was not detected at any of the three sites for bivalves or at any of the two sites for birds (detection limit: 4 pg/g-wet). HCBD was not detected in water at any of the 48 sites, but was detected in sediment at four out of 61 sites, with concentrations ranging from ND to 370 pg/g-dry (detection limit: 40 pg/L for water and 10 pg/g-dry for sediment). HCBD was detected at all 36 sites for air, with concentrations ranging from 1,700 to 5,000 pg/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### **(20) Pentachlorophenol (PCP)**

PCP was monitored in wildlife and air from FY2016 to FY2019, in water in FY1974, FY1996, FY2005, and from FY2015 to FY2019 (except for FY2016), and in sediment in FY1974,

FY1996, and from FY2017 to FY2019.

Regarding the FY2019 surveys, PCP was detected at all three sites for bivalves, at 14 out of 16 sites for fish, and at one site for birds, with concentrations ranging from 13 to 54 pg/g-wet for bivalves, ND to 57 pg/g-wet for fish, and 430 pg/g-wet for birds (detection limit: 4 pg/g-dry). PCP was detected at 32 out of 48 sites for water, at all 61 sites for sediment, and at all 36 sites for air, with concentrations ranging from ND to 3,500 pg/L for water, 7 to 6,200 pg/g-dry for sediment, and 0.6 to 22 pg/m<sup>3</sup> for air (detection limit: 20 pg/L for water).

## **(21) Short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs)**

SCCPs (chlorinated decanes, chlorinated undecanes, chlorinated dodecanes and chlorinated tridecanes) were monitored in wildlife, water, and sediment in FY2004 and FY2005, in wildlife from FY2016 to FY2022, and in air, water, and sediment from FY2017 to FY2022.

Regarding the FY2022 surveys, SCCPs were detected at one out of three sites for bivalves, four out of 18 sites for fish, one out of two sites for birds, with total concentrations ranging from ND to tr(2,700) pg/g-wet for bivalves, ND to tr(2,600) pg/g-wet for fish, ND to tr(1,600) pg/g-wet for birds (detection limit: 1,200 pg/g-wet). SCCPs were detected at 33 out of 48 sites for water, 53 out of 61 sites for sediment, and 14 out of 36 sites for air, with total concentrations ranging from ND to 9,600 pg/L for water, ND to 60,000 pg/g-dry for sediment, and ND to 3,400 pg/m<sup>3</sup> for air (detection limit: 900 pg/L for water, 570 pg/g-dry for sediment, 400 pg/m<sup>3</sup> for air).

## **(22) Dicofol**

Dicofol (p,p'-dicofol) was monitored in water and sediment in FY1978. Subsequently, the monitoring surveys were conducted in wildlife in FY2006, FY2008, and from FY2018 to FY2020, in air in FY2016, FY2019, and FY2020, in water in FY2008, FY2019, and FY2020, and in sediment in FY2004, FY2008, FY2019, and FY2020.

Regarding the FY2020 surveys, dicofol was detected at one out of three sites for bivalves and eight out of 18 sites for fish, with concentrations ranging from ND to tr(20) pg/g-wet for bivalves and ND to 330 pg/g-wet for fish (detection limit: 10 pg/g-wet). Dicofol was not detected in birds (detection limit: 10 pg/g-wet). Dicofol was detected at one out of 46 sites for water and 23 out of 58 sites for sediment, with concentrations ranging from ND to 30 pg/L for water and ND to 77 pg/g-dry for sediment (detection limit: 5 pg/L for water, 5 pg/g-dry for sediment). In air, dicofol was detected at three out of 37 sites for air in warm season, with the concentrations ranging from ND to tr(0.3) pg/m<sup>3</sup> (detection limit: 0.2 pg/m<sup>3</sup>).



### **(23) Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)**

PFOA was monitored in wildlife and sediment in FY2003 and FY2005, in air in FY2004, and in water in FY2002 and FY2005. Monitoring surveys were also conducted from FY2009 to FY2022 (except for FY2013 and FY2018) for wildlife, from FY2009 to FY2022 (except for FY2013 and FY2017) for water and sediment, and from FY2010 to FY2022 (except for FY2018) for air. Furthermore, the government began monitoring PFOA in human blood in FY2008. Since FY2018, the surveys have been conducted as a pilot study to identify issues related to the feasibility of recruiting methods for survey participants and to examine areas for improvement.

#### **(i) Wildlife**

- Based on statistical analysis from FY2009 to FY2022, although the number of detections was small, the detection rate decreased, suggesting a reduction tendency (see Figure 7 of the Appendix).
- Regarding the FY2022 surveys, PFOA was detected at all three sites for bivalves, 17 out of 18 sites for fish and all two sites for birds, with concentrations ranging from tr(5) to 35 pg/g-wet for bivalves, ND to 47 pg/g-wet for fish, and 470 to 2,600 pg/g-wet for birds (detection limit: 3 pg/g-wet).

#### **(ii) Air**

- Statistical analysis from FY2010 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend of PFOA in warm season (see Figure 7 of the Appendix).
- Regarding the FY2022 surveys, PFOA was detected at all 36 sites in warm season, with concentrations ranging from 4.1 to 26 pg/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### **(iii) Water**

- Statistical analysis from FY2009 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend of PFOA in rivers, lakes, estuaries and overall areas (see Figure 7 of the Appendix).
- Regarding the FY2022 surveys, PFOA was detected at all 48 sites, with concentrations ranging from 170 to 14,000 pg/L.

#### **(iv) Sediment**

- Statistical analysis from FY2009 to FY2022 indicated a significant decreasing trend of PFOA in estuaries and overall areas (see Figure 7 of the Appendix).
- Regarding the FY2022 surveys, PFOA was detected at all 61 sites, with concentrations ranging from tr(5) to 370 pg/g-dry.

(iv) Human

- Regarding the FY2023 surveys, the average concentration of PFOA in the whole blood of 108 participants was 1.2 ng/mL, ranging from <0.17 to 3.9 ng/mL.

PFOA was designated as Monitoring Substance in 2020, and is monitored in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, sea waters and groundwaters by local public authorities according to local circumstances. Surveys on PFOA were conducted at 1,258 sites in FY2022 (see Figure 5 of the Appendix).

**(24) Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)**

PFHxS was monitored in wildlife and air from FY2020 to FY2022, and in water and sediment from FY2018 and FY2022. Furthermore, the government began monitoring PFHxS in human blood in FY2013. Since FY2018, the surveys have been conducted as a pilot study to identify issues related to the feasibility of recruiting methods for survey participants and to examine areas for improvement.

Regarding the FY2022 surveys, PFHxS was detected at 10 out of 18 sites for fish and all two sites for birds, with concentrations ranging from ND to 20 pg/g-wet for fish and 250 to 630 pg/g-wet for birds. PFHxS was not detected in bivalves at any of the three sites (detection limit: 3 pg/g-wet). PFHxS was detected at 42 out of 48 sites for water and 28 out of 61 sites for sediment, with concentrations ranging from ND to 1,800 pg/L for water and ND to 16 pg/g-dry for sediment (detection limit: 30 pg/L for water, and 3 pg/g-dry for sediment). PFHxS was detected at all 36 sites for air in warm season, with concentration ranging from 0.79 to 7.0 pg/m<sup>3</sup> (detection limit: 0.04 pg/m<sup>3</sup>). Regarding the FY2023 surveys, the average concentration of PFHxS in the whole blood of 108 participants was 0.27 ng/mL, ranging from <0.14 to 1.6 ng/mL.

**(25) Dechlorane plus**

Monitoring and analysis of dechlorane plus in the environment are currently underway.

**(26) Methoxychlor**

Monitoring and analysis of methoxychlor in the environment are currently underway.

**(27) UV-328**

Monitoring and analysis of UV-328 in the environment are currently underway.

**(28) Summary**

The general environmental situation of Japan can be summarized as follows with respect

to the chemicals discussed above;

- (i) Among chemicals subject to environmental quality standards, these standards were met for dioxins and PCBs at most and all sites surveyed, respectively.
- (ii) With regard to chemicals other than dioxins that have been continuously monitored using a high-sensitive analytical method since FY2002, the average concentration or the detection rate have remained almost constant. Nonetheless, these indicators have been decreasing for most POPs during the last 30 years.
- (iii) Higher concentrations were observed in water and sediment samples from areas readily affected by human activities such as harbors and semi-closed sea area aside coasts of large cities.
- (iv) For wildlife specimens, high concentrations of POPs such as PCBs were observed in fish caught from coastal areas with densely populated cities.

## **2. Effectiveness evaluation of measures taken and remaining problems**

### **(1) Dioxins**

With respect to dioxins, the guidelines for waste incinerators were established in 1990. In 1992, guidance was provided to pulp and paper factories on emission control measures. Measures against dioxins were strengthened as emission control was imposed in 1997 on waste incinerators and electric steel-making furnaces under Air Pollution Control Law. Further, comprehensive measures are implemented in accordance with the Dioxins Law established in 1999. The Government Plan to Reduce Dioxins Levels Resulting from Business Activities in Japan (the third Reduction Plan), which was developed in August 2012 under the Dioxins Law, set a target of reducing emission rates up to 176 g-TEQ/year from type of businesses subject to set reduction targets. Dioxins emissions in 2022 totaled 102 g-TEQ/year, which achieved the reduction target. This is tantamount to an approximately 99% reduction from the 1997 level, the first year of enforcement of the law. The status of environmental pollution has greatly improved due to the significant reduction of dioxins emissions. In recent years, achievement rates stood at close to 100% vis-a-vis environmental standards for each survey medium. In light of these achievements, considering that the improved environment would not be exacerbated, reduction measures on releases will continue to be implemented precisely in the future.

### **(2) Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**

PCBs are designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance under the Chemical Substances Control Law and thus their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited. Since 2001, efforts have been made to properly treat PCB wastes in accordance with the PCB Special

Measures Law.

As for PCBs unintentionally produced, it was found in February 2012 that PCBs were included as residues in certain types of organic pigments that have a wide range of domestic uses. Therefore, to establish the industrially and economically achievable minimal level of unintentionally produced PCBs, principles governing the by-production of PCBs, its management and analysis procedures have been discussed since July 2012. In January 2016, the “Report on the industrially and economically achievable minimal levels of unintentionally produced PCBs in organic pigments” was prepared. Based on this report, information on management of chemical substances containing unintentionally produced Class I Specified Chemical Substance has just been released to the concerning organizations and operators in March 2016, and the provisions for the reduction of PCB by-production are promoted.

Furthermore, as the sources and categories of emission and formation processes for PCBs unintentionally produced by other ways than for organic pigments are similar to those of dioxins, the measures currently taken for dioxins are basically expected to help reduce unintentionally produced PCBs as well.

### **(3) Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)**

As a Class I Specified Chemical Substance, the manufacture, import and use of hexachlorobenzene are virtually prohibited under the Chemical Substances Control Law. Meanwhile, the source categories of emission and formation processes for unintentionally produced HCB are similar to those for dioxins. Therefore, the measures currently taken for dioxins are expected to help reduce HCB concentrations as well. Since HCB is still detected in the environment, it is required to monitor the concentrations constantly as well as to promote measures to reduce HCB emissions.

### **(4) Drins and heptachlor**

The manufacture, use and other activities regarding drins (aldrin, dieldrin and endrin) and heptachlor have been regulated since the 1970s-1980s under the Chemical Substances Control Law, the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act and other regulations. Although drins and heptachlor are still detected in the environment, decreasing trends in their concentrations have been observed in some environmental media. When crops particularly prone to absorbing drins are cultivated in fields where such chemicals had been used, there are cases where drins are found to exceed the Maximum Residue Limit. Therefore, the government has promoted surveillance on soil and crops as well as a conversion of crop species, and conducted research and development for technology that enables reduction of absorption of drins and heptachlor in soil by crops.

## **(5) DDT**

The manufacture, use and other activities regarding DDT have been regulated since the 1970s-1980s under the Chemical Substances Control Law, the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act and other regulations. Although DDT is still detected in the environment, decreasing trends in its concentrations have been observed in some environmental media.

## **(6) Chlordane**

The manufacture, use and other activities regarding chlordane have been regulated since the 1960s-1980s under the Chemical Substances Control Law, the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act and other regulations. Although chlordane is still detected in the environment, decreasing trends in its concentrations have been observed in some environmental media.

## **(7) Toxaphene and mirex**

There is no record of manufacture, import or use of toxaphene and mirex in Japan. A high-sensitivity analytical method was introduced in FY 2003. Since the FY2003 survey, mirex has been detected in almost all specimens, although at low level. Toxaphene was not detected in water or bottom sediment. Instead, it was found in some wildlife. Toxaphene was also detected in the air at trace concentration. These two chemicals are designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and are also designated as agricultural chemicals of which the distribution and use is prohibited under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act. Therefore, under these laws, necessary measures to control these chemicals have been already implemented.

## **(8) Hexachlorocyclohexanes (HCHs)**

HCHs were used as agricultural chemicals and also as insecticides for termite control. As their registration expired in 1971 under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act, they can no longer be produced or imported as agricultural chemicals. However, they were used as insecticides for termite control and wood treatment agents. As for  $\alpha$ -HCH,  $\beta$ -HCH and  $\gamma$ -HCH (also known as Lindane), they were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances in April 2010 under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited. Additionally, as for lindane related to agricultural use, its use and other activities have been already regulated since the 1970s under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act.

## **(9) Hexabromobiphenyl (HBB)**

HBB was used as a flame retardant for plastic products. It was designated as Class I

Specified Chemical Substance in April 2010 under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited.

#### **(10) Polybrominated diphenyl ethers**

Polybrominated diphenyl ethers were used as a flame retardant for plastic products. As for congeners with a bromine number of 4 to 7, namely tetrabrominated diphenyl ethers, pentabrominated diphenyl ethers, hexabrominated diphenyl ethers and heptabrominated diphenyl ethers, and congener with a bromine number of 10, which is decabromodiphenyl ether, were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Chemical Substances Control Law in April 2010 and July 2017, respectively, and their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited.

#### **(11) PFOS or its salts, and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF)**

PFOS or its salts, and PFOSF as their precursor were used as water/oil repellents and surface acting agents. They were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances in April 2010 under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited. (As of 2010, the use of PFOS was permitted on an exceptional basis for some applications, subject to strict controls. However, the amendment to the Order for Enforcement of the Chemical Substances Control Law in April 2018 resulted in the production and use of PFOS being banned for virtually all applications.)

For PFOS, a provisional guideline value (sum of PFOA and PFOS) has been set for the water environment as Monitoring Substance, and local public authorities monitor PFOS according to local circumstances. If the monitoring results exceed the provisional guideline value, measures such as preventing exposure through drinking are taken.

#### **(12) Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB)**

PeCB was used as a flame retardant. It was designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance in April 2010 under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and its manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited. It has never been registered domestically as an agricultural chemical, while it has been applied for agricultural use overseas in the past.

As the sources and categories of emission and formation processes for unintentionally produced PeCB are similar to those of dioxins, it is admitted that the measures currently taken for dioxins apply for emission reduction of pentachlorobenzene as well. Since it is still detected in the environment, it is required to monitor the concentrations constantly as well as to promote measures to reduce its emissions.

### **(13) Chlordecone**

Chlordecone is a kind of organochlorinated insecticide. It has never been registered domestically as an agricultural chemical, and there is no record of manufacture and import. It was designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance in April 2010 under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and its manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited.

### **(14) Endosulfan**

Endosulfan is a kind of organochlorinated insecticide. Its registration expired in 2010 under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act, and its distribution and use have been prohibited since April 2012 based on the same Act. Also, endosulfan was designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance in May 2014 under the Chemical Substances Control Law and their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited.

### **(15) Hexabromocyclododecanes (HBCDs)**

HBCDs were used as a flame retardant. They were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances in May 2014 under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited.

### **(16) Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD)**

HCBD was used as a solvent. It was designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance in April 2005 under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and its manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited.

As the sources and categories of emission and formation processes for unintentionally produced HCBD are similar to those of dioxins, it is admitted that the measures currently taken for dioxins apply for emission reduction of HCBD as well. Since HCBD is still detected in the environment, it is to monitor the concentrations constantly as well as to promote measures to reduce its emissions.

### **(17) Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs)**

PCNs were used as additives in lubricants and preservatives. PCNs containing three or more chlorine atoms were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance in August 1979 under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited. Furthermore, PCNs with two atoms of chlorine were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance in April 2016 under the same Law.

### **(18) Pentachlorophenol (PCP) and its salts and esters**

PCP was used as an herbicide, disinfectant and repellent. Its registration expired in 1990 under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act, and its distribution and use have been prohibited since April 2012 based on the same Act. Furthermore, PCP and its salts and esters were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance in April 2016 under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited.

### **(19) Short-chain chlorinated paraffins**

SCCPs were used as a flame retardant. They were designated as polychlorinated linear-chain paraffins (limited to those that have 10 to 13 in the number of carbons and whose chlorine content is over 48% in the total weight) as Class I Specified Chemical Substance in April 2018 under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited.

### **(20) Dicofol**

Dicofol (p,p'-dicofol) was used as an insecticide. Its registration expired in 2004 under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act, and its distribution and use have been prohibited since April 2010 based on the same Act. Furthermore, p,p'-dicofol and o,p'-dicofol were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance in April 2005 and October 2021, respectively, and their manufacture, import and use were virtually prohibited.

### **(21) PFOA, its salts and PFOA related substances**

PFOA, its salts and PFOA related substances were used as processing aids in the production of fluoropolymers and surface acting agents. PFOA and its salts, its isomers, and PFOA related substances were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Chemical Substances Control Law in October 2021, September 2024 and January 2025 respectively, and their manufacture, import and use were virtually prohibited.

For PFOA, a provisional guideline value (sum of PFOA and PFOS) has been set for the water environment as Monitoring Substance, and local authorities monitor PFOA according to local circumstances. If the monitoring results exceed the provisional guideline value, measures such as preventing exposure through drinking are taken.

### **(22) PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS related substances**

PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS related substances were used in foam extinguishing agents, metal plating and textiles. PFHxS, its isomers and their salts were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Chemical Substances Control Law in February 2024, and their



manufacture, import and use were virtually prohibited. PFHxS related substances will be designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and their manufacture, import and use will be virtually prohibited in the near future.

**(23) Dechlorane plus**

Dechlorane plus was used as a flame retardant. It was designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and its manufacture, import and use were virtually prohibited in February 2025.

**(24) Methoxychlor**

Methoxychlor was used as an insecticide. Its registration expired in 1960 under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act, and its distribution and use have been prohibited since December 2024 based on the same Act. It was designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and its manufacture, import and use were virtually prohibited in February 2025.

**(25) UV-328**

UV-328 was used as a UV absorber. It was designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and its manufacture, import and use were virtually prohibited in February 2025.

## **Chapter 3 Specific measures - strategy and elements of the National Implementation Plan**

### **Section 1 Basic concept**

The following is an overview of the basic concept of Japan about measures on the elimination and reduction of POPs emission.

It is important that Japan fully comply with the obligations under the Stockholm Convention, from the viewpoint of the protection of human health and conservation of the environment, as well as contribution to the international activities to eliminate and reduce emissions of hazardous chemical substances.

Recognizing the properties of POPs, the Japanese government, in cooperation with foreign governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, will take measures to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects caused by POPs at all stages of their lifecycles and will promote international cooperation in this connection.

Taking into account that developing countries (in particular the Least Developing Countries) and countries with economies in transition are more vulnerable to health concerns resulting from local exposure to POPs, Japan will play a positive role to strengthen their national capabilities for the management of chemical substances including POPs (through the transfer of technology, the provision of financial and technical assistance and the promotion of cooperation among the Parties to the Stockholm Convention). We will also play a positive role in monitoring POPs at a regional level with a view to helping improve monitoring techniques and verifying the efficacy of measures in these regions.

Furthermore, as stipulated in Article 1 of the Stockholm Convention, and keeping in mind the precautionary approach as set forth in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Japan will act through international cooperation as necessary to add new substances to the list of substances regulated under the Stockholm Convention.

### **Section 2 Effective implementation of the plan**

#### **1. Framework of implementation and cooperation among actors**

The national implementation plan represents a plan to promote concrete measures required under the Stockholm Convention. Therefore, the main actor for its implementation is the government. However, in enforcing the Convention, all the actors concerned of civil society,

which are the government, local public authorities, businesses and citizens, all being mindful of their respective responsibilities set forth in the Basic Environment Law (Law No. 91 of 1993), must work closely with each other. This has to be achieved by sharing a common understanding and by acting in line with the basic concept set forth in the national implementation plan.

Ministries and Agencies of the central government should ensure close cooperation through the Inter-Ministerial General Directors' Meetings. They should develop and implement measures set forth in the national implementation plan in a comprehensive and well planned manner. Though these measures in the implementation plan are developed and implemented by the Ministries and/or Agencies concerned, their effective implementation can be ensured by strengthening cooperation and coordination among the Ministries and Agencies as well as by concerted action. Depending upon issues and measures, frameworks for the participation of and coordination with various stakeholders including local public authorities, businesses and citizens will be created. The provision of information through the use of information technology (IT) and the exchange of information through coordination meetings will also be promoted while the activities of various stakeholders will be positively supported and assisted.

Local public authorities are expected to implement measures similar to those taken by the central government as well as their own particular measures in a comprehensive and well planned manner, consistent with the basic thinking set forth in the national implementation plan and taking into account their specific regional natural and social conditions. It is important that in implementing these measures, they should ensure close coordination and cooperation among the local public authorities concerned and develop and implement these measures from the planning stage through the implementation stage with the participation of and coordination with the local communities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and experts.

It is also important that businesses and citizens recognize the importance of measures against POPs issues, take into account fully the possible repercussions to POPs issues in their business operations, daily lives and production activities, and act voluntarily and positively in line with the basic thinking of the national implementation plan.

Non-profit private sector organizations engaged in environmental conservation activities are expected to play a major role in environmental conservation through carrying out these activities in an institutional manner from the perspectives of promoting the public good. These actors are expected to make further contributions in terms of promoting various measures through their participation in environmental research and conservation activities, as well as in environmental education and environmental learning.

Efforts to ensure the implementation of the national implementation plan shall be pursued through a coherent implementation framework put in place by the central government as well as coordination and cooperation among all the actors concerned of civil society.

With a view to ensuring the participation of and cooperation with various actors, the government will also promote and facilitate the provision to the various actors of information on the contents of the Stockholm Convention, the purpose of the national implementation plan as well as measures which can be taken by each actor concerned.

Furthermore, in terms of ensuring global environmental protection, the government has the obligation to contribute to international efforts in line with the implementation of domestic measures. Therefore, the government will work together with other developed countries on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and provide assistance to developing countries.

## **2. Coordination of various national policies**

Among the basic policies or plans closely related to measures against POPs pollution, there are the Basic Environment Plan, the Government Plan to Reduce Dioxin Levels Resulting from Business Activities in Japan (hereafter referred to as the Reduction Plan) and the Basic Plan for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Waste Treatment. Japan will ensure consistency and closer coordination between measures based upon these basic policies and plans on one hand and the national implementation plan on the other.

In addition, it is fully ensured that plans and measures of the central government which are likely to have implications on the measures against POPs should be in line with the basic thinking of the national implementation plan.

### **Section 3 Regulatory measures designed to prevent the manufacture, use, import and export of persistent organic pollutants.**

Among the laws regulating the manufacture, use, import and export of POPs in Japan, there are the Chemical Substances Control Law, the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act, the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act and the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act. Under these laws, regulatory measures are taken with respect to the manufacture, use, import and export of chemical substances equivalent to POPs in terms of all of their aspects or uses. The following is an overview of these laws.

#### **1. Measures under the Chemical Substances Control Law**

Under the Chemical Substances Control Law, chemical substances which possess low degradability (i.e. resistant to chemical change by way of naturally occurring chemical reactions), high bioaccumulation (likely to be accumulated in bodies of living organisms) and long-term toxicity for humans or top-level predators (in cases of continuous ingestion, likely to be harmful to the survival or growth) are designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances, and are subject to regulatory measures such as prior notification for the manufacture/import (principally prohibited), limitation and prohibition of any use other than specified uses or mandatory reporting system, etc. However, even when chemicals are designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances, they still can be used under stringent control if no alternatives exist and their uses would not threaten human health. Also, if chemicals designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances are contained in other chemicals only in small amounts as by-product, they are not handled as Class I Specified Chemical Substances where it is confirmed that they do not pose any threats to human health through contamination of the environment, and their content rates have been lowered to technically and economically feasible levels.

As of March 2025, among the substances considered as subject to the regulation of the Stockholm Convention by the eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, 39 chemical substances including 34 groups are designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances, except for PCDDs and PCDFs, which are not manufactured intentionally, as well as PFHxS related substances.

Regarding fire extinguisher, extinguishing agents for fire extinguisher and foam extinguishing agents that have been produced using PFOS or its salts, PFOA, its isomers, or its salts, PFOA related substances or PFHxS, its isomers, or its salts, alternatives already exist, and they are unlikely to be manufactured/imported in the future. However, since large amounts have already been distributed nationwide, and it is quite difficult to replace them with alternatives in

the short-term, the technical standards and labeling matters at the time of transfer to enable stringent control were prepared as provisional measures for the time being.

Also, for chemicals designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances such as HCBs or PCBs that are found to exist as by-product in other chemicals in small amounts, technically and economically feasible levels were established individually, and operators are requested to achieve further reductions.

Operators intending to manufacture or import new chemical substances are required to submit the particulars of such chemical substances to the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Minister of the Environment, who shall assess these chemical substances on the basis of the available scientific knowledge and the data submitted by the operators.

In the future as well, chemical substances similar to POPs, which possess low degradation, high bioaccumulation, long-term toxicity for humans and long-term toxicity for top-level predators, shall continue to be regulated under the Chemical Substances Control Law.

## **2. Measures under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act**

It is stipulated under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act that the distribution of agricultural chemicals having negative impacts on agricultural crops and living creatures, as described in item 4 to item 9 or item 11 of paragraph 1 of Article 4, shall be prohibited to prevent such effects under the ministerial ordinance on the basis of the stipulation of paragraph 2 of Article 18. Agricultural chemicals of which the distribution is prohibited shall also be prohibited to use by Article 24 of the act.

It is currently prohibited under the Act to distribute or use agricultural chemicals containing 18 chemicals designated under the Stockholm Convention, including aldrin,  $\alpha$ -HCH,  $\beta$ -HCH, chlordane, chlordecone, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, HCB, lindane, mirex, PeCB, PCP, endosulfan, toxaphene, dicofol (p,p'-dicofol), DDT, and methoxychlor.

The inspection method and the maximum content limit for dioxins in agricultural chemicals are stipulated in paragraph 3 of Article 31 of the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act. Additionally, the amount of the chemicals in all agricultural chemicals registered under the Act has been below the stipulated level. Furthermore, for agricultural chemicals newly applied for registration, only those found to have the amount of the regulated chemicals below the stipulated level through the inspection are to be registered.

## **3. Measures under the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act**

Pharmaceuticals, quasi-drugs, cosmetics, medical devices and products of regenerative medicine can be distributed to the market only if they were approved for marketing authorization after evaluation of their validity, safety, etc. based on the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act, or meet the requirement stipulated by the act. The efforts will be made to eliminate and reduce substances listed in Stockholm Convention based on the medical needs.

#### **4. Measures under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act**

The Export Trade Control Order under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act stipulates that POPs are subject to the requirement of export approval under Article 2 of the order as goods listed in 2.35.3 of the schedule of the said order. Under the Stockholm Convention, not only the export of POPs themselves, but also products containing POPs are subject to export control. The Operational Notification of the Export Trade Control Order specifically defines the scope of products which shall be subject to the requirement of export approval. Its Cautionary Notes on export set forth the conditions of export approvals such as the prohibition of the export of products containing PCBs.

Although the import of chemicals designated under the Stockholm Convention is already regulated by domestic regulations such as the Chemical Substances Control Law, products, in which Class I Specified Chemical Substances designated under the Order for Enforcement of the Chemical Substances Control Law are used, are also regulated under the Import Trade Control Order based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, as a complementary framework, to virtually prohibit their import.

The Export Trade Control Order and the Import Trade Control Order stipulate that the POPs wastes (including POPs containing products and articles upon becoming wastes) shall be subject to the requirement of import or export approval. These Orders, together with the relevant laws (the Waste Management Act and the Law for the Control of Export, Import and Others of Specified Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes (Law No. 108 of 1992) etc. hereafter referred to as the Basel Law), ensure measures to manage stockpiles and wastes in an environmentally sound manner in compliance with paragraph 1 (d) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention.

## **Section 4 Action Plan for Reduction of Emissions of Unintentionally Produced Chemicals**

### **1. Dioxins**

#### **(1) Current and future release estimates in Japan**

The current estimated amounts of releases (2022) in Japan are shown in the table below. Estimated releases in 1997 when legal regulation was introduced are also shown in the same table. In Japan, PCDDs, PCDFs and coplanar PCBs are categorized as dioxins under the Dioxins Law.

Japan has limited land space available for the final disposal sites of waste, and its hot and humid climate requires hygienic waste management. Therefore, waste disposal is mainly conducted by incineration. The ratio of municipal waste incinerated is as high as approximately 79%, making waste incinerators one of the main generation sources of dioxins.

Given this situation, as described below, measures against dioxins have mainly focused upon controlling releases from waste incinerators, etc. Releases (estimate) in 2022 were 105-107 g-TEQ per annum, which represents a decline of approximately 99% from the level of releases in 1997 (7,680-8,135 g-TEQ per annum). Subsequently, environmental status has greatly improved, and as explained in 1. (1) of Section 3, Chapter 2, the proportion that has achieved the environmental standard stands at close to 100 percent. Under these circumstances, release reduction measures will be implemented appropriately.



### Inventory of dioxins emission amount (Summary)

Source categories		Releases (g-TEQ per annum)	
		Estimated amount for 1997	Estimated amount for 2022
Subject to reduction target		7676-8129	102
	Water	13	1
1. Waste disposal category		7,205-7,658	60
	Water	5	0
	Municipal waste incinerators	5,000	25
	Industrial waste incinerators	1,505	15
	Small scale waste incinerators (Subject to laws and regulations)	-	10
	Small scale waste incinerators (Not subject to laws and regulations)	700-1,153	9.4
2. Industrial category		470	42
	Water	6.3	0.4
	Electric furnaces for steelmaking	229	20.2
	Iron and steel industry sintering facilities	135	4.9
	Zinc recuperation (collection) facilities	47.4	1.0
	Aluminum alloys production facilities	31.0	10.5
	Other facilities	27.3	5.6
3. Other sources		1.2	0.2
	Water	1.2	0.2
	Final sewage treatment facilities	1.1	0.2
	Final dumping site	0.1	0.0
Subject to reduction target		3.6-6.2	2.5-4.8
	Crematoria	2.1-4.6	1.6-3.9
	Cigarettes smoke	0.1-0.2	0.0
	Vehicles exhaust	1.4	0.9
Total		7,680-8,135	105-107
	Water	13	1

Note1: Emission amounts in 1997 are presented using WHO-TEF(1998) as a toxicity equivalency coefficient, and emission amounts in 2022 are presented using WHO-TEF(2006) to the possible extent.

Note 2: "Water" in the table means amount released into water as part of releases.

Note 3: The number "0" in the table is the consequence of rounding up at decimals and standardized at g-TEQ.

## (2) Effectiveness evaluation of the laws and policies concerning release control

### A) Overall system of the laws and policies

In Japan, regulatory measures were started in 1997 to control releases of dioxins from waste incinerators and electric steel-making furnaces under the Air Pollution Control Law and the Waste Management Act. Subsequently, the target facilities subject to regulation have been expanded under the Dioxins Law. The institutional framework was put in place for enforcing comprehensive measures including the establishment of environmental quality standards, monitoring trends of environmental pollution, establishing Plans of Measures Against Soil

Contamination by Dioxins and a plan for reducing the release of dioxins.

### Environmental quality standards

Media	Standard
The ambient air	Not more than 0.6 pg-TEQ/m <sup>3</sup>
The waters (excluding the bottom sediment)	Not more than 1 pg-TEQ/L
The bottom sediment	Not more than 150 pg-TEQ/g
The soil	Not more than 1,000 pg-TEQ/g

Note: \* The standards are in 2,3,7,8-TeCDD toxicity equivalent

\* The standards for the ambient air and the waters (excluding bottom sediment) are on an annual average basis.

As for measures to control releases, the national government specifies the facilities subject to the regulation, according to the amount released, the concentration of dioxins released, etc. When fixing the release standards it shall take into account feasible technical levels and scale of facilities etc. Waste incinerators are also subject to more stringent controls than Dioxins Law on the release of dioxins in accordance with the standards for the structure and maintenance/management of incinerators set forth under the Waste Management Act.

Under the Dioxins Law, any person installing facilities shall measure the status of dioxins pollution caused by gases and water released from the facilities at least once a year, and shall report to the Prefectural Governor.

### Emission standards

(Unit: ng-TEQ/Nm<sup>3</sup>)

Type of Specified Facilities	Scale of facilities (Capacity of incineration)	Standards for new facilities	Standards for existing facilities
Waste incinerators (hearth area is more than 0.5 m <sup>2</sup> or capacity of Incineration is more than 50 kg/h)	More than 4t/h	0.1	1
	2t/h-4t/h	1	5
	Below 2t/h	5	10
Electric steel-making furnaces		0.5	5
Sintering facilities for steel industry		0.1	1
Facilities for recovering zinc		1	10
Facilities for manufacturing aluminum base alloy		1	5

Note: Regarding newly constructed waste incinerators (capacity is more than 200kg/h) and electric steel-making furnaces to which the standards for controlling designated materials in the Air Pollutions Control Law have already applied, emission standards in the above chart for a new facility are applied.

## Effluents

### Specified Facilities and Emission Standards

(Unit: pg-TEQ/L)

Type of Specified Facilities	Emission Standard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bleaching facilities using chlorine or chlorine compounds used for manufacturing sulfate pulps (kraft pulps) or sulfite pulps</li> <li>- Cleansing facilities for acetylene used for manufacturing acetylene by carbide method</li> <li>- Cleansing facilities for waste gas used for manufacturing potassium sulfate</li> <li>- Cleansing facilities for waste gas used for manufacturing alumina fiber</li> <li>- Waste gas cleaning facilities, among facilities to dispose of gas generated from baking furnace used for manufacturing supported catalysts (limited to the manufacture with the use of chlorine or its compounds)</li> <li>- Cleansing facilities for dichloroethane used for manufacturing vinyl chloride monomer</li> <li>- Sulfuric acid concentration facilities, cyclohexane separation facilities, and waste gas cleansing facilities used for manufacturing caprolactam (limited to using nitrosyl chloride)</li> <li>- Water washing facilities and waste gas cleansing facilities used for manufacturing chlorobenzene or dichlorobenzene</li> <li>- Filtering facilities, drying facilities, and waste gas cleansing facilities used for manufacturing sodium hydrogen 4-chlorophthalate</li> <li>- Filtering facilities and waste gas cleansing facilities for waste gas used for manufacturing 2,3-dichloro-1,4-naphthoquinone</li> <li>- Nitro-derivative and its reductant separation facilities, nitro-derivative, its reductant cleansing facilities, dioxazineviolet cleansing facilities, and hot-air drying facilities used for manufacturing dioxazineviolet</li> <li>- Waste gas cleansing facilities and wet dust collecting facilities among facilities disposing of exhaust fumes from roasting furnaces, melting furnaces, or dry kilns used for manufacturing aluminum or aluminum base alloy</li> <li>- Refining facilities, waste gas cleansing facilities and wet dust collecting facilities used for recovering zinc (limited to zinc collection from dust that is generated from electric steel-making furnaces and collected by dust-collector)</li> <li>- Filtering facilities, refining facilities and waste gas cleansing facilities used for metal collection from supported catalysts (spent ones only) (except collection from roasting furnaces treatment with soda ash addition and extraction with alkali (limited to processes which not use roasting furnaces treatment))</li> <li>- Cleansing facilities for waste gas, wet dust collecting facilities, and ash storing facilities discharging polluted water or wastewater, which are related to waste incinerators (hearth area is more than 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> or capacity of incineration 50 kg/h)</li> <li>- Resolving facilities for waste PCB or PCB-processed matter, and cleansing facilities and sorting facilities for PCB-contaminated matter or PCB-processed matter</li> <li>- Plasma reactive facilities, waste gas cleansing facilities and wet dust collecting facilities used for freons (CFC and HCFC) destruction (limited to plasma reaction method, waste mixed burning method, in liquid combustion method and steam heating reaction method)</li> <li>- Facilities for disposing water discharged from facilities subject to effluent standards</li> <li>- Terminal treatment facilities of sewerage relating to facilities mentioned above</li> </ul>	10

Note: The standard relating to water discharged from terminal waste disposal facilities is 10 pg-TEQ/L based on orders stipulating standards for maintenance based on the Waste Management Act.

Under the Dioxins Law, Prefectural Governors shall monitor from time to time the level of pollution of ambient air, public water, bottom sediment and soil caused by dioxins.

With respect to measures against contaminated soil, an institutional framework is already in place whereby the Prefectural Governors shall designate the controlled areas against soil contamination by dioxins; shall establish Plans of Measures; and, shall implement operations including the removal of soil contamination in cooperation with stakeholders at the expense of polluters etc. under the Plans of Measures.

Furthermore, with respect to polluted bottom sediments, counter-measures including the removal of such pollution etc. or studies on them are undertaken in accordance with the Guideline concerning the Treatment and Disposal of Bottom Sediment issued by the Ministry of the Environment. Financial support is provided to the relevant local public authorities to appropriately promote the dismantling of general waste incinerators at the time of decommission, and encourage the effective reuse of vacant lots.

The central government provides financial assistance to local public authorities to facilitate the dismantling conducted along with facilities improvement at such sites to promote the dismantling of general waste incinerators at the time of their decommission, and encourage the effective re-use of such sites.

Furthermore, in the following areas the national government shall establish the Reduction Plan in order to ensure the comprehensive and integrated implementation of various release reduction measures within the above-mentioned institutional framework of the laws and policies concerning dioxins:

- (a) Reduction targets relating to the estimated amount of dioxins emissions categorized by field of business activities in Japan
- (b) Measures for businesses in order to achieve reduction targets provided in the preceding item.
- (c) Measures to be taken by the national government and local public authorities to promote the recycling and reuse of resources, and to reduce waste which could form dioxins.
- (d) Other matters to reduce dioxins resulting from business activities in Japan.

The following is an overview of the third Reduction Plan as modified in August, 2012:

As regards (a) above, the aggregate reduction target set on each business field shall be 176 g-TEQ per annum in the immediate future after 2012.

The measures to be taken by business entities in connection with (b) above are as follows:

(i) Compliance with emission standards etc.

Compliance with emission standard for the emission gas and effluent standard for the effluent water etc.; prevention of environmental pollution caused by dioxins; measures in case of accidents; measurements on the status of pollution by dioxins; appointment of pollution control supervisors etc.; and, prohibition of open burning of waste.

(ii) Report dioxins releases etc. by businesses

Report of release etc. of designated chemical substances etc. in compliance with the PRTR Law, formulation of operational guidelines, taking note of the Chemical Substance Management Guidelines, implementation of release reduction measures such as checkup and improvement of the facilities, and enhancement of the general public's awareness of the measures.

(iii) Promotion of reducing, reuse and recycling waste that could form dioxins.

Measures to be taken by the government and local public authorities in conjunction with (c) above:

(i) Promotion of measures to reduce the amounts of waste etc.

Promotion of measures under the "Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society" (Law No. 110 of 2000), the Waste Management Act etc. and assistance to equipment investment required for waste reduction

(ii) Achievement of reduction targets for waste etc.

(iii) Others

Reduction and proper disposal of wastes etc. from public facilities; enhancing environmental education/learning

As regards (d) above:

(i) Appropriate and smooth implementation of the Stockholm Convention

(ii) Promotion of measures for sources of dioxins

Promotion of measures against waste; promotion of measures against unregulated sources etc.; prohibition of open burning without using a proper incinerator

(iii) Report dioxins releases etc.

Publication of release inventory of dioxins; implementation of monitoring and surveys

on the actual status of dioxins releases and implementation of measures based on the results; and, promotion of effective and efficient measurements and QA/QC.

(iv) Promotion of research and investigations and technological development activities regarding dioxins

(v) Publication of accurate information and enhancement of disclosure to the general public enhancement of publication and disclosure of information; and, systematic activities designed to enhance public awareness.

(For details refer to the annexed Reduction Plan)

#### B) Assessing the effectiveness of laws and policies

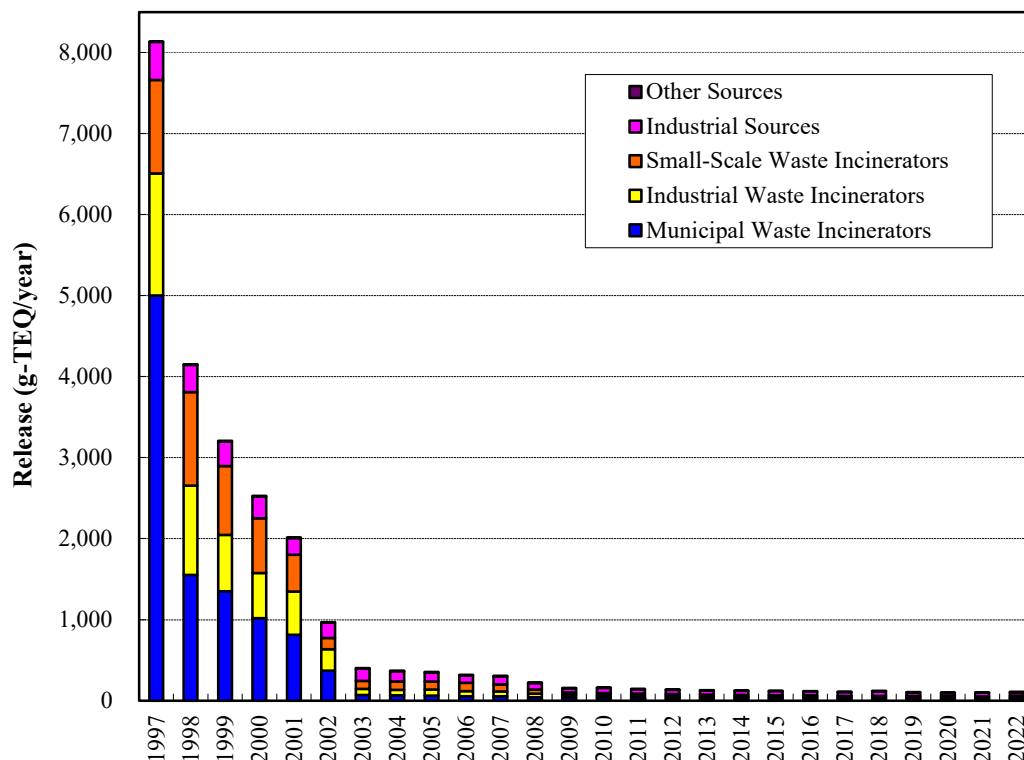
As a result of the measures taken so far, releases of dioxins are estimated to have been reduced by approximately 99% in 2022 (102 g-TEQ/year) from the level in 1997 (7676-8129 g-TEQ/year), and this is well below the target established by the third Reduction Plan (the reduction target: 176 g-TEQ/year).

As is clear from this, Japan has continued to take measures to reduce releases of dioxins at a realistic and meaningful level as provided for in Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention.

Article 5 of the Convention stipulates that the Parties shall promote the use of the best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) (hereafter referred to as the BAT and BEP guidelines), and that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt the general guidance to be taken into consideration when applying BAT and BEP. At the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention held in May 2007, the guidelines and guidance were adopted, which is to be taken into consideration when applying BAT and BEP. As a result, Japan has been requiring or promoting the use of BAT and BEP, while taking into consideration the BAT and BEP guidelines. Japan will continue to make such efforts.

### (3) Strategy to promote the reduction of total releases

#### A) Promotion of Reduction Plan



Because dioxins are unintentionally produced when burning materials, it is important that continued measures should be taken to reduce releases. Therefore, Japan will continue to steadily take the measures incorporated into the third Reduction Plan completed in August, 2012 toward achieving the goal established by the plan.

#### B) Use of BAT and BEP

Under Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention, Japan will continue to take measures for reducing releases through the use of BAT and BEP for each source category provided for in Annex C of the Stockholm Convention, taking into consideration the draft BAT and BEP guidelines, with a view to achieving the goal of continuing to minimize the release of dioxins, and where feasible, their elimination.

#### (A) Source categories in Part II of Annex C of the Stockholm Convention

##### (A-1) Measures taken and status of amounts of releases etc.

The measures taken and amounts of releases etc. related to each individual source

category are as follows. Among the source categories mentioned in Part II in Annex C of the Stockholm Convention, both new and existing sources other than those related to secondary copper production are subject to legal regulations according to the amount released.

(a) Waste incinerators

(Measures taken)

- With respect to emission gas from waste incinerators with a hearth area of 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> or more, or with an incineration capacity of 50 kg/h or more, the emission standard is established under the Dioxins Law according to the size of an incinerator or depending upon whether an incinerator is a newly constructed one or an existing one. The emission standard is supposed to be established at a level that is attainable when technically feasible measures are taken. The emission standard for newly constructed large-scale incinerators (with an incineration capacity of 4,000 kg/h or more) is 0.1 ng-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup>N. Cement kilns combusting waste regulated under the Waste Management Act are also regulated as waste incinerators under the Dioxin Regulation Act. The effluent standard (10 pg-TEQ/L) is set for effluent from the business establishments having cleansing facilities for waste gas, wet dust collecting facilities, and ash storing facilities discharging polluted water or wastewater, which are related to waste incinerators.
- In addition, the treatment standard for controlling the generation of dioxins is set forth under the Waste Management Act for all waste incinerators including those with an incineration capacity of below 50 kg/h. For an incinerator with an incineration capacity of 200 kg/h or more, a more detailed standard is set forth with respect to its structural and maintenance/management requirements with a view to controlling the generation and the release of dioxins.

(Amounts of releases etc.)

- As of the end of March 2023 there were 6,996 waste incinerators subject to the emission standard under the Dioxins Law and 2,348 specified facilities subject to the effluent standard which were related to waste incinerators. The amounts of releases of dioxins from waste incinerators in 2022 is estimated to be 60 g-TEQ per annum, of which amounts of releases into waters are estimated to be 0.18 g-TEQ per annum.

(b) Production of pulp

(Measures taken)

- For wastewater discharged from bleaching facilities using chlorine or chlorine compounds used for manufacturing sulfate pulps (kraft pulps) or sulfite pulps, the



effluent standard (10 pg-TEQ/L) is set forth under the Dioxins Law and it actually meets the APL.

(Amounts of releases etc.)

- As of the end of March 2023, there were 71 specified facilities subject to the effluent standard under the Dioxins Law. The amounts of releases of dioxins into waters from pulp production plants are estimated to be 0.16 g-TEQ per annum in 2022.

(c) Sinter plants in the iron and steel industry

(Measures taken)

- For sinter plants in the iron industry, the emission standard is set forth under the Dioxins Law, depending upon whether the plant is a new one or an existing one. The emission standard for new ones is set at 0.1 ng-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup>N, which meets the APL.

(Amounts of releases etc.)

- As of the end of March 2023, there were 29 specified facilities under the Dioxins Law. The amounts of releases of dioxins from sinter plants are estimated to be 4.9 g-TEQ per annum in 2022.

(d) Secondary aluminum production (Manufacturing aluminum base alloy)

(Measures taken)

- For facilities for manufacturing aluminum base alloy in Japan which are equivalent to secondary aluminum production facilities in the metallurgical industry in Part II of Annex C of the Stockholm Convention the emission standard is set forth under the Dioxins Law, depending upon whether the plant is a new one or an existing one. The release standard for new ones is set at 1 ng-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup>N, which does not meet the APL. The effluent standard (10 pg-TEQ/L) is set forth for effluent from the business establishments having cleansing facilities for waste gas and wet dust collecting facilities relating to roasting furnaces, melting furnaces, or dry kilns for manufacturing aluminum or aluminum base alloy.

(Amounts of releases etc.)

- As of the end of March 2023, there were 725 specified facilities subject to the emission standard under the Dioxins Law and 72 specified facilities subject to the effluent standard. The amount of releases of dioxins from facilities for manufacturing aluminum base alloy in 2022 are estimated to be 10.5 g-TEQ per annum, of which releases into

waters are estimated to be 0.005 g-TEQ per annum.

(e) Secondary zinc production (Facilities for recovering zinc)

(Measures taken)

- For facilities for recovering zinc in Japan which are equivalent to facilities for secondary zinc production in the metallurgical industry in Part II of Annex C of the Stockholm Convention, the emission standard is set forth under the Dioxins Law, depending upon whether a plant is a new one or an existing one. The emission gas standard for new ones is set at 1 ng-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup>N, which does not meet the APL. The effluent standard (10 pg-TEQ/L) is set forth for effluent from the business establishments having refining facilities, waste gas cleansing facilities, and wet dust collecting facilities used for recovering zinc.

(Amounts of releases etc.)

- As of the end of March 2023, there were 31 specified facilities subject to the emission standard under the Dioxins Law and 51 specified facilities subject to the effluent standard. The amounts of releases of dioxins from facilities for recovering zinc are estimated to be 0.99 g-TEQ per annum, of which amounts of releases into waters are estimated to be 0.00025 g-TEQ per annum.

(f) Secondary copper production (Facilities for recovering copper)

- There is no copper recovery plant in Japan that is corresponding to the criteria of facilities for secondary copper production in the metallurgical industry in Part II of Annex C of the Stockholm Convention.

(A-2) Policies on future measures

Article 5(d) of the Stockholm Convention requires the use of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) for sources that fall within the purview of the above-mentioned sources (except facilities for recovering copper mentioned in (f) above). For these sources, BAT and BEP shall be promoted continuously, taking into account the BAT and BEP guidelines etc.

Also, continued efforts will be made to provide tax and financial incentives with a view to facilitating the replacement of facilities and measures for reducing releases.

(B) Source categories in Part III of Annex C of the Stockholm Convention

(B-1) Measures taken and status of amounts of releases etc.

The measures taken and amounts of releases related to each individual source category are as follows. Measures including regulatory framework have been already been put in place for some of source categories in Part II of Annex C of the Stockholm Convention.

(a) Open burning of waste

(Measures taken)

- As the rule, the open burning of waste is prohibited under the Waste Management Act and the Offensive Odor Control Law (Law No. 91 of 1971)

(b) Thermal processes in the metallurgical industry not in Part II of Annex C of the Stockholm Convention

(Measures taken)

- For an electric steel-making furnaces for secondary steel production, the emission standard is set forth under the Dioxins Law, depending upon whether the furnace is a new one or an existing one. The emission standard for new ones is set at 0.5 ng-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup>N.

(Amounts of releases etc.)

- As of the end of March 2023, there were 94 specified facilities subject to the emission standard under the Dioxins Law. The amounts of releases of dioxins from electric steel-making furnaces are estimated to be 20.2g-TEQ per annum in 2022.

(c) Specific chemical production processes

(Measures taken)

- Effluent from the business establishments having facilities used for the production of each of the following chemicals is subject to the effluent standard (10 pg-TEQ/L) set forth under the Dioxins Law.
  - Vinyl chloride monomer (Dichloroethane cleansing facilities)
  - Caprolactam (limited to using nitrosyl chloride) (Sulfuric acid concentration facilities, cyclohexane separation facilities, and waste gas cleansing facilities)
  - Chlorobenzene or dichlorobenzene (water washing facilities and waste gas cleansing facilities)
  - Sodium hydrogen 4-chlorophthlate (Filtering facilities, drying facilities, and waste gas cleansing facilities)
  - 2,3-dichloro-1,4-naphthoquinone (Filtering facilities and waste gas cleansing facilities)

facilities)

- Dioxazineviolet (Nitro-derivative and its reductant separation facilities, nitro-derivative and its reductant cleansing facilities, dioxazineviolet cleansing facilities, and hot-air drying facilities)
- Potassium sulfate (Waste gas cleansing facilities)
- Acetylene by carbide method (Acetylene cleansing facilities)

(Amounts of releases etc.)

- As of the end of March 2023, there were 82 specified facilities subject to the effluent standard under the Dioxins Law. The amounts of releases of dioxins into waters from facilities for the production of these chemicals are estimated to be 0.225 g-TEQ per annum in 2022. Although these facilities are not subject to the emission standard, amounts of dioxins released into the air would be estimated to be 0.445 g-TEQ per annum if amounts released from these facilities were included in the calculation.

(d) Crematoria

(Measures taken)

- For crematorium in March 2000 “The Guidelines for Counter-measures for Reducing the Generation of Dioxins from Crematoria” was prepared and widely publicized. Now, measures are taken to reduce the release of dioxins for the facilities and their management/operation.

(Amounts of releases etc.)

- The amounts of releases of dioxins from crematoria are estimated to be 1.6-3.9 g-TEQ per annum.

(e) Motor vehicles

(Measures taken)

- Gasoline-powered motor vehicles are subject to fuel regulation under the Air Pollution Control Law, which prohibits the use of leaded gasoline.
- For diesel engine motor vehicles, regulations concerning particulate matters have been implemented since October 1993, and enhanced gradually. New long-term regulations entered into force in October 2009, and since then, the standard for motor vehicle waste gas emission control concerning particulate matters has been further enhanced. Subsequently, every diesel engine motor vehicle is to be equipped with a diesel particulate filter (DPF).

(Amounts of releases etc.)

- The amounts of releases of dioxins from motor vehicles are estimated to be 0.89 g-TEQ per annum.

(f) Shredder plants for the treatment of end-of-life vehicles

(Measures taken)

- Under the Law for the Recycling of End-of-Life Vehicles (Law No. 87 of 2002), measures for reducing waste relating to end-of-life motor vehicles are facilitated.

(B-2) Policies on future measures

In compliance with Article 5(e) of the Stockholm Convention, Japan will promote the use of BAT and BEP, taking into consideration the BAT and BEP guidelines.

Because sufficient information on the source categories in Annex C of the Stockholm Convention is not available, it will make systematic efforts to collect data on amounts of releases etc., and examine the prioritization of measures and their technical feasibility etc., and the necessary measures shall be taken based upon the results of those studies.

#### **(4) Measures to promote educational and training activities, and to enhance public awareness**

The following measures will be taken under the Reduction Plan to promote educational and training activities, and to enhance public awareness:

- Infrastructure building will be promoted to enhance the supply and the diffusion of information, personnel training, and further systematization of teaching materials and educational programs, in order to ensure that environmental education/learning including that designed to reduce waste discharges will be promoted at schools, within the family, in workplaces, in local communities, and any other places etc. in accordance with the basic policy under the Law for Enhancing Motivation on Environmental Conservation and Promoting of Environmental Education (Law No. 130 of 2003).
- Systematic training shall be provided to technical experts working in official testing organizations of local public authorities etc. to help them enhance their understanding of analytical techniques and their skills for using the technologies.
- To ensure people's better understanding and their more cooperation in addressing issues of dioxins, the government will make best efforts to provide accurate information on dioxins.

## (5) Evaluation and revision of action plan

Based on the trend etc. of amounts of releases of dioxins, the government will evaluate the implementation of the action plan, and will revise the action plan if necessary.

## (6) Schedule for implementing the action plan

The various existing measures for reducing releases shall be implemented adequately so that the current environmental status will not be exacerbated.

## 2. Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)

### (1) HCB release in Japan

The current estimated amounts of HCB domestic emissions (as of 2021) are shown in the table below. As a reference, values reported at the start of estimation in 2002 are also presented.

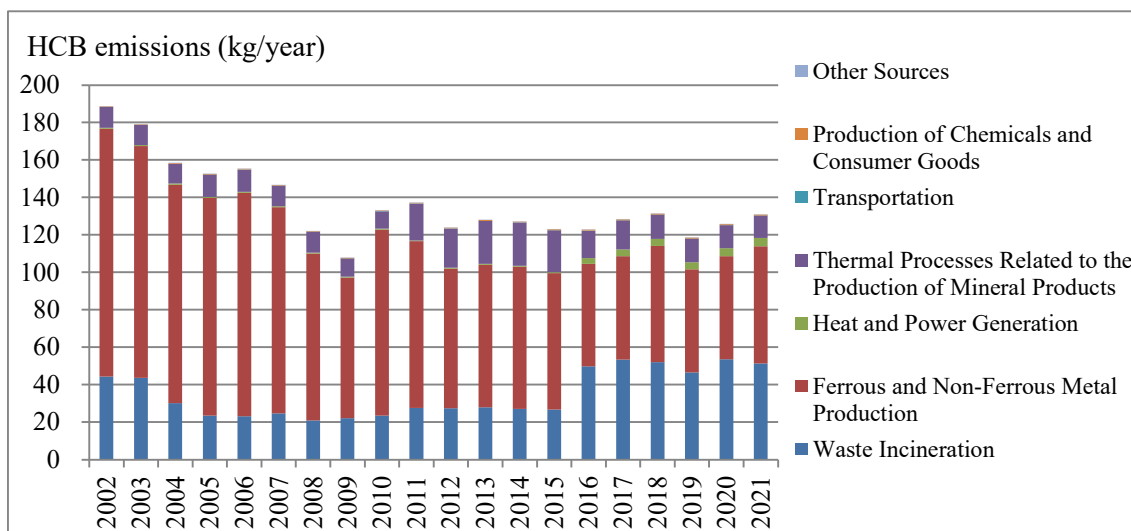
Source of emission	Emission (kg/year) (Estimates)	
	2002	2021
<b>Part II Source categories</b>	85	78
Waste incinerators	44 (Water) 0.061	51
Cement kilns	11	12
Production of pulp	0.080 (Water) 0.080	NO
Thermal processes in the metallurgical industry	30	15
Secondary copper production	NO	NO
Sinter plants in the iron and steel industry	16	7.3
Secondary aluminum production	3.0	2.1
Secondary zinc production	11	5.7
<b>Part III Source categories</b>	100	52
Thermal processes in the metallurgical industry not mentioned in Part II	100	46
Fossil fuel-fired utility and industrial boilers	0.38	0.25
Firing installations for wood and other biomass fuels	0.034	4.3
Specific chemical production processes	0.24	0.24
Crematoria	0.16	0.18
Motor vehicles	NE	0.046
Smoldering of copper cables	0.42	0.37
Other source categories	1.9	0.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>131</b>

NE: Not Estimated NO: Not Occurring

Note 1: "Water" means amount released into water as part of releases.

Note 2: The total figure is not compatible with the sum of figures in each column due to rounding.

Note 3: HCB emission estimation was made using emission factors calculated based on measured data obtained from domestic sampling survey.



HCB emissions variation

According to surveys conducted for domestic operating facilities, unintentionally produced HCB was generated from thermal and combustion processes similar to those of dioxins. HCB releases from thermal processes in the metallurgical industry, waste incinerators and cement combustion furnaces were relatively higher than other sources, with emission rates of 48%, 39%, and 9.1%, respectively.

It was estimated that HCB emissions decreased between 2002 and 2008, and after 2008, it has been stagnating. Furthermore, estimations showed a 31% emission decrease in 2021 compared to 2002.

## (2) Measures to reduce HCB release

It is assumed that HCB is produced via thermal and combustion processes similar to those of dioxins. Accordingly, it is expected that generation/exhaust gas control measures similar to release reduction measures for dioxins would be effective. Efforts will continuously be made to reduce HCB releases through measures stipulated in the dioxins reduction plan mentioned in Section 4.1, considering the size and number of targeted emission sources facilities. Particularly, analysis results showed that exhaust gas cooling and activated carbon adsorption could be effective, and some cases showed an HCB emission reduction resulting not only from improvement in exhaust gas treatment facilities, but also from improvement in operation and raw material management. As a consequence of this former experience, surveys in domestic operating facilities will continue to be conducted with a focus on HCB major sources. Also, efficiency of HCB emission reduction by implementation of dioxins release reduction measures considering the BAT and BEP guidelines will be confirmed.

Moreover, as inventory data of HCB emission will be maintained, efforts are being made to raise awareness among operators by providing useful information on release reduction. This includes disseminating the materials on measures to control emissions<sup>1</sup> compiled in June 2024 based on the findings from surveys related to the examination of release reduction measures as mentioned above. Efforts will continue to promote further release reduction measures.

### **3. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**

#### **(1) PCB release in Japan**

The current estimated amounts of PCB domestic emissions (as of 2021) are shown in the table below. As a reference, values reported at the start of estimation in 2002 are also presented.

---

<sup>1</sup> Webpage of the Ministry of the Environment: “Measures to Control Emissions of Unintentionally Produced Persistent Organic Pollutants in Japan” <https://www.env.go.jp/content/000239517.pdf>



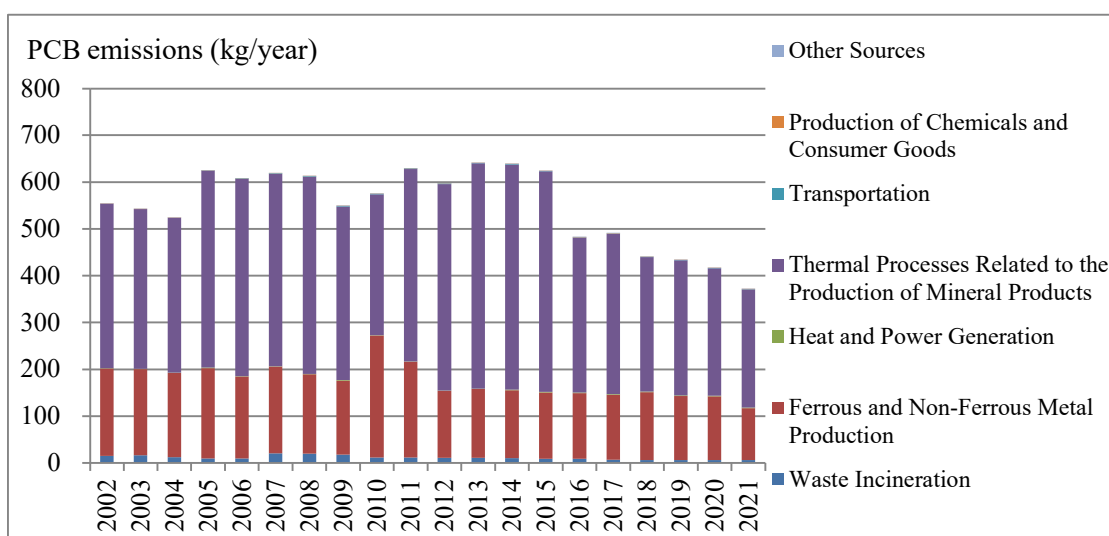
Source of emission	Emission (kg/year) (Estimates)	
	2002	2021
<b>Part II Source categories</b>	450	311
Waste incinerators	15 (Water) 0.18	6.3
Cement kilns	350	250
Production of pulp	5.7 (Water) 5.7	NO
Thermal processes in the metallurgical industry	82	54
Secondary copper production	NO	NO
Sinter plants in the iron and steel industry	45	35
Secondary aluminum production	10	5.4
Secondary zinc production	26	14
<b>Part III Source categories</b>	100	58
Thermal processes in the metallurgical industry not mentioned in Part II	100	54
Fossil fuel-fired utility and industrial boilers	0.84	0.75
Firing installations for wood and other biomass fuels	0.28	0.69
Specific chemical production processes	0.031	0.028
Crematoria	0.44	0.51
Motor vehicles	NE	0.97
Smoldering of copper cables	0.084	0.074
Other source categories	5.1	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>371</b>

NE: Not Estimated NO: Not Occurring

Note 1: "Water" means amount released into water as part of releases.

Note 2: The total figure is not compatible with the sum of figures in each column due to rounding.

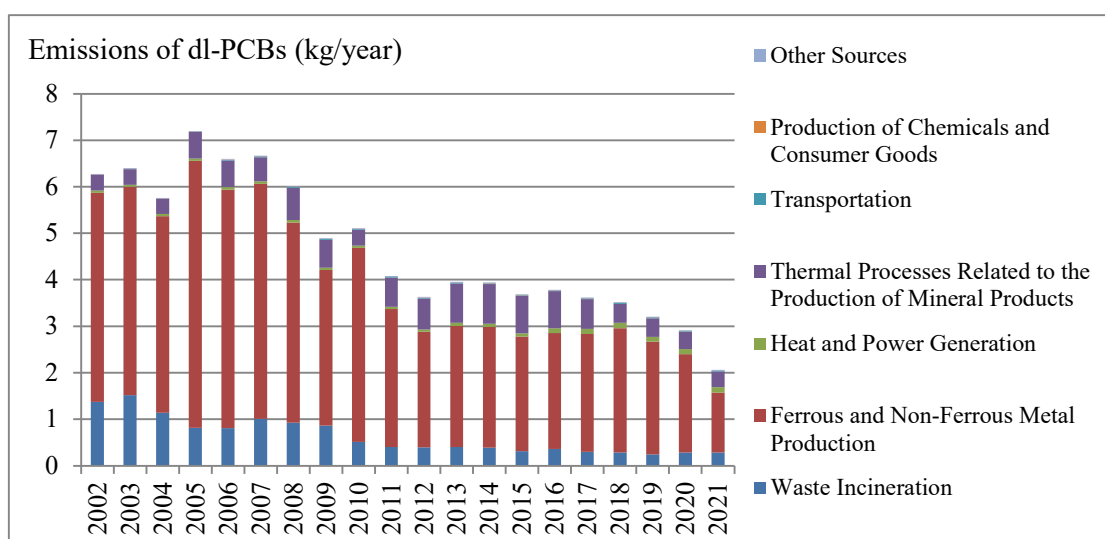
Note 3: PCB emission estimation was made using emission factors calculated based on measured data obtained from domestic sampling survey.



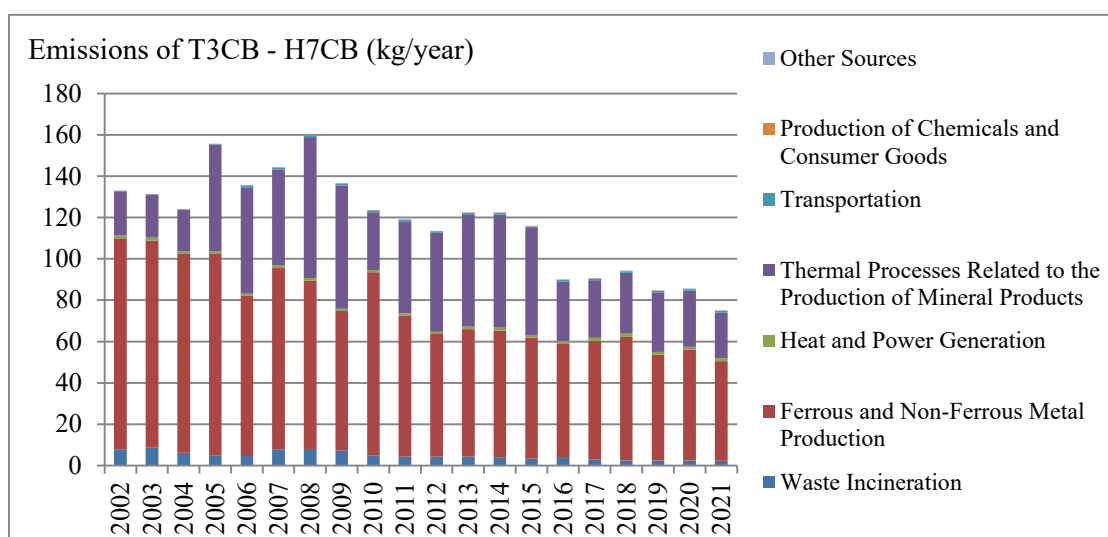
PCB emissions variation

According to surveys conducted for domestic operating facilities, unintentionally produced PCBs were generated from thermal and combustion processes similar to those of dioxins. PCB releases from thermal processes in cement combustion furnaces and metallurgical industry were relatively higher than other sources, with emission rates of 68% and 30%, respectively. It was estimated that PCB emissions decreased 34% between 2002 and 2021.

Also, PCB emissions are estimated based on the measured values of all isomers (209 kinds). Among the isomers, emissions of highly toxic dioxin-like PCBs (dl-PCBs) and PCB congeners with 3 to 7 chlorine atoms (T3CB – H7CB) are estimated to be decreasing in a long-time trend.



dl-PCBs emission variation



Emission variation of PCB congeners with 3 to 7 chlorine atoms (T3CB-H7CB)

## **(2) Measures to reduce PCB release**

It is assumed that unintentionally produced PCBs are generated via thermal and combustion processes similar to those of dioxins. Therefore, it is expected that generation/exhaust gas control measures similar to release reduction measures for dioxins would be effective. Efforts will continuously be made to reduce PCB releases through measures stipulated in the dioxins reduction plan described in Section 4, 1, considering the size and number of targeted emission sources facilities. Particularly, as analysis results showed that exhaust gas cooling and activated carbon adsorption could be effective, some cases showed a PCB emission reduction resulting not only from improvement in exhaust gas treatment facilities, but also from those in operation and raw material management. As a consequence of this former experience, surveys in domestic operating facilities will continue to be conducted with a focus on PCB major sources. Also, efficiency of PCB emission reduction by implementing dioxins release reduction measures considering the BAT and BEP guidelines will be confirmed. Moreover, considering the emission reduction measures specific to PCBs due to their generation process and emission sources, it is recognized that additional measures beyond those for dioxins are necessary. These measures will be identified and continuously reviewed.

Furthermore, as inventory data of PCB emission will be maintained, efforts are being made to raise awareness among operators by providing useful information on release reduction. This includes disseminating the materials on measures to control emissions<sup>1</sup> compiled in June 2024 based on the findings from surveys related to the examination of release reduction measures as mentioned above. Efforts will continue to promote further release reduction measures.

For emissions into public water bodies, monitoring of effluent will be continued under the Water Pollution Prevention Act, which already requires the PCB content of effluent to be below 0.003 mg/L.

## **4. Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB)**

### **(1) PeCB release in Japan**

The current estimated amounts of PeCB domestic emissions (as of 2021) are shown in the table below. As a reference, values reported in 2012 when the values for PeCB emissions stabilized are also presented.

---

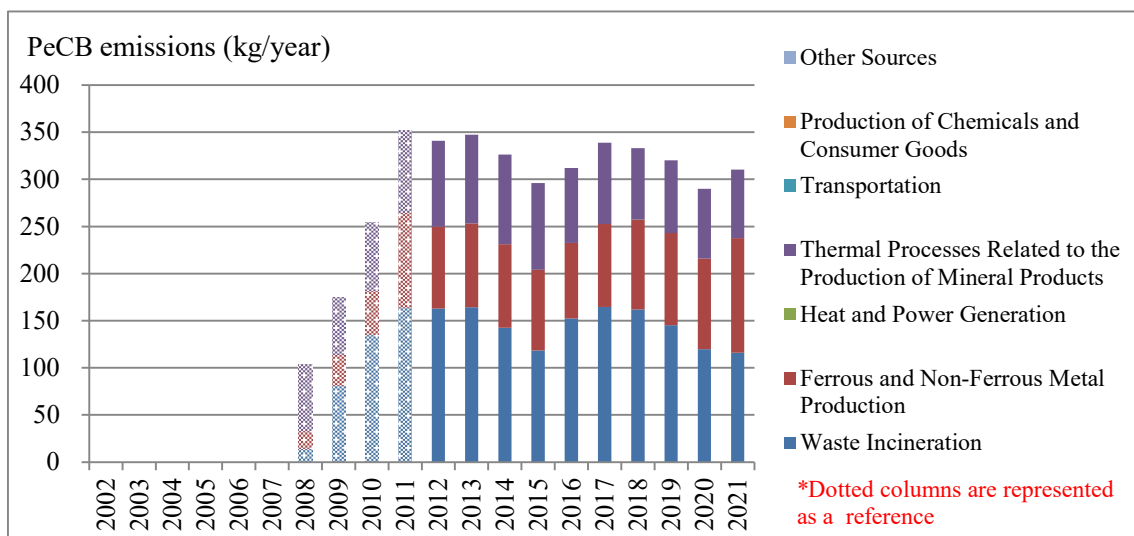
<sup>1</sup> Homepage of the Ministry of the Environment: “Outline of Measures to Control Emissions of Unintentionally Produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPs) in Japan” <https://www.env.go.jp/content/000239517.pdf>

Source of emission	Emission (kg/year) (Estimates)	
	2012	2021
<b>Part II Source categories</b>	290	235
Waste incinerators	163	116
Cement kilns	91	73
Production of pulp	NO	NO
Thermal processes in the metallurgical industry	36	46
Secondary copper production	NO	NO
Sinter plants in the iron and steel industry	18	29
Secondary aluminum production	0.56	2.3
Secondary zinc production	18	15
<b>Part III Source categories</b>	51	75
Thermal processes in the metallurgical industry not mentioned in Part II	51	75
Fossil fuel-fired utility and industrial boilers	NE	NE
Firing installations for wood and other biomass fuels	NE	NE
Specific chemical production processes	NE	NE
Crematoria	NE	NE
Motor vehicles	NE	NE
Smoldering of copper cables	NE	NE
Other source categories	NE	NE
<b>Total</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>310</b>

NE: Not Estimated NO: Not Occurring

Note 1: The total figure is not compatible with the sum of figures in each column due to rounding.

Note 2: PeCB emission estimation was made using emission factors calculated based on measured data obtained from domestic sampling survey.



PeCB emissions variation

According to surveys conducted for domestic operating facilities, unintentionally produced PeCB was generated from thermal and combustion processes similar to those of dioxins. PeCB releases from thermal processes in the metallurgical industry and waste incinerators were relatively higher than other sources, with emission rates of 39% and 37%, respectively. After 2012, the year for which it is considered that estimated values were stabilized, estimations showed a globally flat trend.

## **(2) Measures to reduce PeCB release**

It is assumed that PeCBs are produced via thermal and combustion processes similar to those of dioxins. Therefore, it is expected that generation/exhaust gas control measures similar to release reduction measures for dioxins would be effective. Efforts will continuously be made to reduce PeCB releases through measures stipulated in the dioxins reduction plan described in Section 4.1, considering the size and number of targeted emission sources facilities. Particularly, as analysis results showed that exhaust gas cooling and activated carbon adsorption could be effective, surveys in domestic operating facilities will continue to be conducted with a focus on PeCB major sources. Also, efficiency of PeCB emission reduction by implementing dioxins release reduction measures considering the BAT and BEP guidelines will be confirmed.

Furthermore, as inventory data of PeCB emission will be maintained, efforts are being made to raise awareness among operators by providing useful information on release reduction. This includes disseminating the materials on measures to control emissions<sup>1</sup> compiled in June 2024 based on the findings from surveys related to the examination of release reduction measures as mentioned above. Efforts will continue to promote further release reduction measures.

## **5. Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs)**

### **(1) PCN release in Japan**

The current estimated amounts of PCN domestic emissions (as of 2021) are shown in the table below. According to surveys conducted from 2014 for domestic operating facilities, PCN produced unintentionally was generated from thermal and combustion processes similar to those of dioxins. PCN releases from thermal processes in the mineral production were relatively higher than other sources, with emission rates of 78%. The results were confirmed to show a similar trend to PCBs in terms of the percentage contribution to emissions. As intensive surveys were conducted on facilities such as sinter plants in the iron and steel industry, resulting in a

---

<sup>1</sup> Homepage of the Ministry of the Environment: “Outline of Measures to Control Emissions of Unintentionally Produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPs) in Japan” <https://www.env.go.jp/content/000239517.pdf>

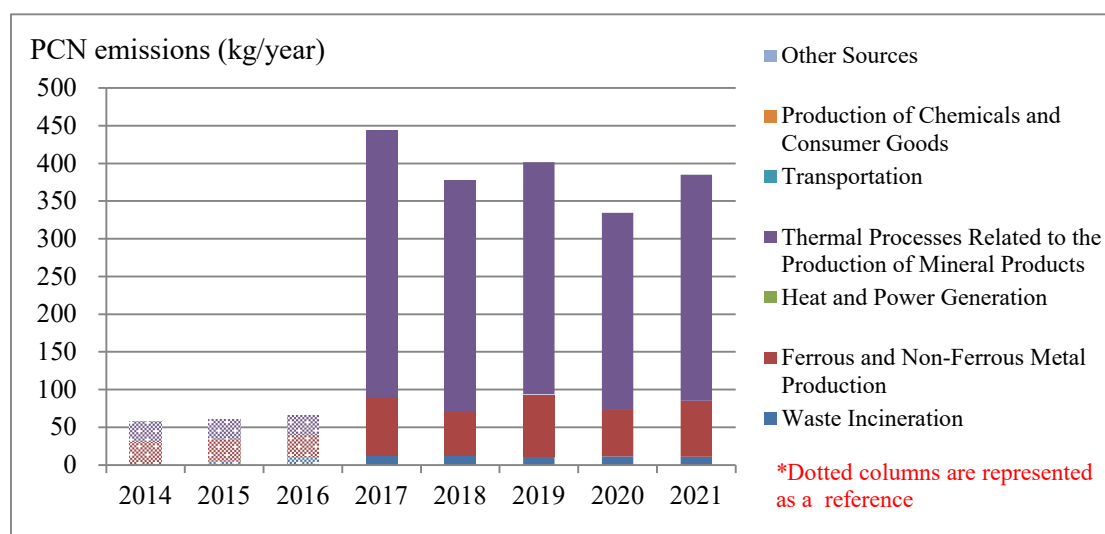
significant increase in measured data, emission volumes will be presented as confirmed values rather than reference values from this revised implementation plan.

Source of emission		Emission (kg/year) (Estimates)
		2021
<b>Part II Source categories</b>		360
	Waste incinerators	11
	Cement kilns	300
	Production of pulp	NO
	Thermal processes in the metallurgical industry	49
	Secondary copper production	NO
	Sinter plants in the iron and steel industry	19
	Secondary aluminum production	2.9
	Secondary zinc production	27
<b>Part III Source categories</b>		25
	Thermal processes in the metallurgical industry not mentioned in Part II	25
	Fossil fuel-fired utility and industrial boilers	NE
	Firing installations for wood and other biomass fuels	NE
	Specific chemical production processes	NE
	Crematoria	NE
	Motor vehicles	NE
	Smoldering of copper cables	NE
Other source categories (Production of coke)		0.20
Total		385

NE: Not Estimated NO: Not Occurring

Note 1: The total figure is not compatible with the sum of figures in each column due to rounding.

Note 2: PCN (limited to those containing two or more chlorine atoms) emission estimation was made using emission factors calculated based on measured data obtained from domestic sampling survey.



PCN emissions variation

## **(2) Measures to reduce PCN release**

It is assumed that unintentionally produced PCNs are generated via thermal and combustion processes similar to those of dioxins. Accordingly, concerning the PCN emissions reduction measures, it is expected that generation/exhaust gas control measures similar to release reduction measures for dioxins would be effective. Effort will continuously be made to reduce PCN releases through measures stipulated in the dioxins reduction plan described in Section 4.1, considering the size and number of targeted emission sources facilities. Particularly, as analysis results showed that exhaust gas cooling and catalytic decomposition could be effective, surveys in domestic operating facilities will continue to be conducted with a focus on PCN major sources. Also, efficiency of PCN emission reduction by implementing dioxins release reduction measures considering the BAT and BEP guidelines will be confirmed. Moreover, considering the emission reduction measures specific to PCNs due to its generation process and emission sources, it is recognized that additional measures beyond those for dioxins are necessary. These measures will be identified and continuously reviewed.

Furthermore, as inventory data of PCN emission will be maintained, efforts are being made to raise awareness among operators by providing useful information on release reduction. This includes disseminating the materials on measures to control emissions<sup>1</sup> compiled in June 2024 based on the findings from surveys related to the examination of release reduction measures as mentioned above. Efforts will continue to promote further release reduction measures.

## **6. Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD)**

### **(1) HCBD release in Japan**

According to surveys conducted from 2018 for domestic operating facilities, unintentionally produced HCBD emissions from waste incinerators, thermal processes in the metallurgical industry, and cement kilns were 1.6 kg/year, 3.1 kg/year, and 2.3 kg/year, respectively. With a significant increase in measured data on HCBD collected from emission sources related to thermal and combustion processes similar to those of dioxins, emission volumes will be presented as confirmed values rather than reference values from this revised implementation plan. For chemical manufacturing processes, on-site investigations are being conducted at multiple domestic emission sources to understand actual emission conditions and estimate emission volumes.

---

<sup>1</sup> Homepage of the Ministry of the Environment: “Outline of Measures to Control Emissions of Unintentionally Produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPs) in Japan” <https://www.env.go.jp/content/000239517.pdf>

Source of emission		Emission (kg/year) (Estimates)
		2021
<b>Part II Source categories</b>		5.8
	Waste incinerators	1.6
	Cement kilns	2.3
	Production of pulp	NO
	Thermal processes in the metallurgical industry	1.9
	Secondary copper production	NO
	Sinter plants in the iron and steel industry	0.95
	Secondary aluminum production	0.34
	Secondary zinc production	0.65
<b>Part III Source categories</b>		1.1
	Thermal processes in the metallurgical industry not mentioned in Part II	1.1
	Fossil fuel-fired utility and industrial boilers	NE
	Firing installations for wood and other biomass fuels	NE
	Specific chemical production processes	NE
	Crematoria	NE
	Motor vehicles	NE
	Smoldering of copper cables	NE
Other source categories		NE
Total		6.9

NE: Not Estimated NO: Not Occurring

Note 1: The total figure is not compatible with the sum of figures in each column due to rounding.

Note 2: HCBd emission estimation was made using emission factors calculated based on measured data obtained from domestic sampling survey.

## (2) Measures to reduce HCBd release

It is suggested that unintentionally produced HCBd is generated not only from thermal and combustion processes similar to those of dioxins, but also potentially from chemical manufacturing processes. Accordingly, concerning the HCBd emission reduction measures, it is expected that generation/exhaust gas control measures similar to release reduction measures for dioxins would be effective as a first step. Efforts will be made to reduce HCBd releases through measures stipulated in the dioxins reduction plan described in Section 4.1.

Additionally, surveys in domestic operating facilities will continue to be conducted with a focus on HCBd major sources. Both the effectiveness of dioxin emission reduction measures and the emission reduction measures specific to HCBd due to its generation process and emission sources will be further reviewed. Particularly, in chemical manufacturing processes where HCBd may be unintentionally generated, on-site investigations have been conducted to understand the actual emissions, and continuous investigations of related emission sources will be carried out. With compiling inventory data of HCBd emission, efforts are being made to raise awareness among operators by providing useful information on release reduction. This includes



disseminating the materials on measures to control emissions<sup>1</sup> compiled in June 2024 based on the findings from surveys related to the examination of release reduction measures as mentioned above. Efforts will continue to promote further release reduction measures.

## **Section 5 Measures to eliminate polychlorinated biphenyls**

### **1. Ban on use**

An administrative guidance was issued in 1972 to voluntarily refrain from using PCB-containing devices that should not be distributed as regulated under the Stockholm Convention. In 1973, the Chemical Substances Control Law was enforced to virtually ban the manufacture and use of PCBs, practically prohibiting the import of PCB and PCB-containing products. The Electricity Business Act (Act No. 170 of 1964) enforced in 1976 to ban the installation of electric machinery and devices using PCB-containing insulation oils on power circuit. Furthermore, the PCB Special Measures Law mandates the disposal of high-concentration PCB products (as defined in paragraph 4, Article 2 of the PCB Special Measures Law) within the designated timeframe, and treatment has been promoted.

Besides transformers and power condensers, low-voltage capacitors attached to or incorporated in devices such as electric welding machines, X-ray irradiation devices, elevators, switchboards, and motors are still being used. Users are required to strictly monitor and control these devices while performing appropriate inspection and maintenance.

### **2. Elimination**

In Japan, under the PCB Special Measures Law, efforts have been made to detoxify approximately 54,000 tons of PCBs previously used domestically. PCB wastes are broadly categorized based on PCB concentration into high-concentration PCB wastes (as defined in paragraph 2, Article 2 of the PCB Special Measures Law) and low-concentration PCB wastes (PCB wastes excluding high-concentration PCB wastes), and their proper treatment has been promoted.

Under the PCB Special Measures Law, high-concentration PCB wastes have been treated at the five regional treatment facilities established nationwide by the Japan Environmental Storage & Safety Corporation (hereinafter referred to as JESCO), which was established under the Japan Environmental Storage & Safety Corporation Law. By the end of March 2024,

---

<sup>1</sup> Homepage of the Ministry of the Environment: “Outline of Measures to Control Emissions of Unintentionally Produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPs) in Japan” <https://www.env.go.jp/content/000239517.pdf>

approximately 395,000 units of transformers and capacitors, and approximately 21,000 tons of ballasts and PCB contaminated wastes were processed. To ensure the thorough treatment of high-concentration PCB products and wastes used or stored domestically, a survey to locate unidentified PCB wastes was conducted over several years in collaboration with local public authorities and industry organizations, in addition to activities designed to enhance public awareness. The treatment of PCB wastes at JESCO's PCB facilities will continue.

Regarding large-size transformers, large-size capacitors, ballasts, small-size capacitors and PCB contaminated wastes (limited to wastes excluding small-size capacitors. Hereinafter referred to as other PCB contaminated wastes), the treated, stored and possessed amounts as of 31 March 2023, and the generated (the total of stored amount of high-concentration PCB wastes and possessed amount of high-concentration PCB products as of 31 March 2023) and treated amounts after the fiscal 2023 are estimated as follows.

Fiscal year	Treated amounts	Stored amounts	Possessed amounts
By the end of fiscal 2022	Large-size transformers, etc. ca. 16,000 units Large-size capacitors, etc. ca. 377,000 units Ballasts and other PCB contaminated wastes ca. 20,000 tons	Large-size transformers, etc. ca. 240 units Large-size capacitors, etc. ca. 2,200 units Ballasts ca. 380,000 units Small-size capacitors ca. 220,000 units Other PCB contaminated wastes ca. 350 tons	Large-size transformers, etc. ca. 20 units Large-size capacitors, etc. ca. 300 units Ballasts ca. 9,000 units Small-size capacitors ca. 3,000 units Other PCB contaminated wastes ca. 0.6 tons
After fiscal 2023	Large-size transformers, etc. ca. 260 units Large-size capacitors, etc. ca. 2,500 units Ballasts ca. 389,000 units Small-size capacitors ca. 223,000 units Other PCB contaminated wastes ca. 350 tons	—	—

Note 1: Amounts in the row “By the end of fiscal 2022” are the amounts which were treated as of end of fiscal 2022.

Treated amounts in the row “After fiscal 2023” are the total amounts which are stored and possessed as of end of fiscal 2022.

Note 2: as of 31 March 2023.

Note 3: “Other PCB contaminated wastes” include wastes with PCB concentration above 5,000 mg/kg and up to 100,000 mg/kg.

For low-concentration PCB wastes, treatment targets include electronical equipments unintentionally contaminated with PCBs at concentrations above 0.5 mg/kg and up to 5,000 mg/kg, as well as paint debris with PCB concentrations above 0.5 mg/kg and up to 100,000 mg/kg. By the end of March 2023, approximately 96,000 units of transformers, 22,000 units capacitors, 14,000 tons of insulating oil, and 20,000 tons of PCB contaminated wastes were treated at private treatment facilities (23 facilities for incineration and 8 facilities for cleaning) certified by the Minister of the Environment, which have permits for detoxification process based on the Waste Management Act. Additionally, by the end of March 2023, approximately 2,000 units of PCB-containing electrical equipment (transformers) had undergone PCB removal using the energized natural circulation washing process, a technology for removing PCBs from equipment in use.

Efforts will continue to raise awareness among holders of suspected low-concentration PCB contaminated equipment and to promote further treatment.

## **Section 6 Strategy for identification of stockpiles and wastes, and measures for sound management and disposal**

When the chemicals designated under the Stockholm Convention were brought within the purview of the Chemical Substances Control Law and the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act, their stockpile and waste were specified by survey of actual conditions and guidance, and they were managed appropriately. In the future, if necessary, an additional survey for the appropriate management and treatment will be conducted. The identification result, the situation of management and the policy for future treatment are shown as follows.

### **1. Stored agricultural chemicals**

In 1971, the distribution of certain organochlorinated agricultural chemicals was prohibited or restricted because of their high persistence. As detoxification methods were not established at the time, they were stored underground in ways that they did not leach into surrounding areas.

Since the Stockholm Convention was ratified in 2001, surveys were conducted to determine the management and detoxification status of these stored POPs agricultural chemicals (hereafter referred to as “stored agricultural chemicals”). The survey identified a total of approximately 4,400 tons of agricultural chemicals that had been stored underground. Out of the total amount, approximately 4,100 tons have been excavated and treated properly by March 2024

in accordance with the “Technical Guidance on Treatment of Agricultural Chemicals containing POPs.”

As for the remaining approximately 300 tons of the stored agricultural chemicals, environmental surveys are conducted in accordance with the “Manual for the Survey, Excavation and Related Issues regarding Agricultural Chemicals Stored Underground” to prevent pollution to the surrounding environment.

### Survey results on status of stored agricultural chemicals

(As of March 2024) (In tons)

Prefecture	Status	Number of burial sites	Amount of stored agricultural chemicals	Amount of each stored agricultural chemical					
				BHC*	DDT	Aldrin	Dieldrin	Endrin	Unknown
Hokkaido	Buried	2	566.020	232.995	303.039	2.794	0.672	26.520	
	Disposed	2	566.020	232.995	303.039	2.794	0.672	26.520	
Iwate	Buried	1	75.300	66.000	6.500	0.300			2.500
	Disposed	1	75.300	66.000	6.500	0.300			2.500
Miyagi	Buried	1	208.145	74.452	104.408	2.269	1.416	0.504	25.096
	Disposed	1	208.145	74.452	104.408	2.269	1.416	0.504	25.096
Akita	Buried	2	176.634	149.174					27.460
	Disposed	2	176.634	149.174					27.460
Yamagata	Buried	14	154.672	134.388	14.718	3.983	0.025	1.558	
	Disposed	14	154.672	134.388	14.718	3.983	0.025	1.558	
Fukushima	Buried	1	200.000	135.000	38.000	15.000			12.000
	Disposed	1	200.000	135.000	38.000	15.000			12.000
Ibaraki	Buried	1	65.600	55.800	7.900		1.900		
	Disposed	1	65.600	55.800	7.900		1.900		
Chiba	Buried	1	6.410	6.410					
	Disposed	1	6.410	6.410					
Kanagawa	Buried	2	73.000	30.000	17.500	11.000	13.500		1.000
	Disposed	2	73.000	30.000	17.500	11.000	13.500		1.000
Yamanashi	Buried	1	6.000						6.000
	Disposed	1	6.000						6.000
Nagano	Buried	10	376.169	1.000	0.250				374.919
	Disposed	9	367.169	1.000	0.250				365.919
Shizuoka	Buried	1	39.100	17.700	15.300	3.800			2.300
	Disposed	1	39.100	17.700	15.300	3.800			2.300
Niigata	Buried	85	492.708	364.261	86.834	5.144	1.026	0.163	35.281
	Disposed	27	346.522	235.993	77.498	3.117	0.385	0.067	29.462
Shiga	Buried	4	249.900	87.400	162.400				0.100
	Disposed	4	249.900	87.400	162.400				0.100
Wakayama	Buried	1	14.569	6.049	5.920				2.600
	Disposed	1	14.569	6.049	5.920				2.600
Tottori	Buried	19	153.414						153.414
	Disposed	1	10.665						10.665
Okayama	Buried	1	454.800	343.300	92.200				19.300
	Disposed	1	454.800	343.300	92.200				19.300
Yamaguchi	Buried	3	162.230	162.200					0.030
	Disposed	3	162.230	162.200					0.030

Ehime	Buried	1	226.271	191.998	33.569	0.242	0.250	0.212	
	Disposed	1	226.271	191.998	33.569	0.242	0.250	0.212	
Fukuoka	Buried	1	434.420						434.420
	Disposed	1	434.420						434.420
Saga	Buried	2	28.196	19.940	8.214			0.042	
	Disposed	2	28.196	19.940	8.214			0.042	
Kumamoto	Buried	2	119.900	58.949	0.604	23.766		0.065	36.516
	Disposed	2	119.900	58.949	0.604	23.766		0.065	36.516
Kagoshima	Buried	1	63.549	54.776	8.773				
	Disposed	1	63.549	54.776	8.773				
Okinawa	Buried	2	27.000	11.000	5.940	0.048		10.012	
	Disposed	2	27.000	11.000	5.940	0.048		10.012	
Total	Buried	159	4,374.007	2,202.792	912.069	68.346	18.789	39.076	1,132.936
	Disposed	82	4,076.072	2,074.524	902.733	66.319	18.148	38.980	975.368

\*BHC is referred to as  $\alpha$ -HCH,  $\beta$ -HCH and lindane.

## 2. Other agricultural chemicals

Under the Chemical Substances Control Law, chlordane and heptachlor, and endosulfan were designated as Class I specified chemical substances in 1986 and 2014, respectively. Currently the production, import and use of chlordane, heptachlor and endosulfan are virtually prohibited.

As for dicofol, which was specified as POPs in 2019, distribution and use of agricultural chemicals containing p,p'-dicofol are prohibited under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act since 2010. Under the Chemical Substances Control Law, p,p'-dicofol and o,p'-dicofol were designated as Class I specified chemical substance in 2005 and 2021, respectively, and the production, import and use are virtually prohibited.

In addition, methoxychlor, which was newly specified as POPs in 2023, is designated as Class I specified chemical substances under the Chemical Substances Control Law in 2025, and the production, import and use will be virtually prohibited.

Regarding the disposal of chlordane and heptachlor, verification tests were conducted by business entities, and they are being disposed of using methods that have been confirmed to ensure proper disposal. The disposal is almost complete.

Regarding the disposal of endosulfan, according to surveys conducted in FY 2015, approximately 6 tons (equivalent to approximately a ton of endosulfan) was found to be stored. Verification tests were conducted by business entities, and the endosulfan is being disposed of using methods that have been confirmed to ensure proper disposal.

Regarding dicofol (p,p'-dicofol), agricultural chemicals containing p,p'-dicofol are being properly disposed of by business entities with a track record of disposal of agricultural chemicals containing POPs.

As for the waste related to methoxychlor, necessary measures to promote proper disposal

will be considered.

### 3. Dioxin-contaminated wastes

The Waste Management Act and the Dioxins Law define wastes contaminated by dioxins and sources of emission as specially controlled municipal solid wastes or specially controlled industrial wastes (hereafter referred to as specially controlled wastes).

The following table shows dioxin-contaminated wastes handled as specially controlled wastes:

Source of emission	Type of waste
Waste incinerators (firebed area of 0.5 m <sup>2</sup> or more, or processing capacity of 50 kg/hour or more)	Soot and dust (exceeding 3ng-TEQ/g) Burnt ash (exceeding 3 ng-TEQ/g) Sludge (exceeding 3ng-TEQ/g)
Electric furnace for steelmaking	Soot and dust (exceeding 3ng-TEQ/g)
Roasting furnaces, melting furnaces and drying furnaces for aluminum alloys	
Bleaching facilities for sulfuric or hydrochloric acid pulps	Sludge (exceeding 3ng-TEQ/g) Waste acids (exceeding 100pg-TEQ/L) Waste alkalis (exceeding 100pg-TEQ/L)
Acetylene cleaning equipment at acetylene production facilities using the carbide method	
Waste gas cleaning equipment at potassium sulfate production facilities	
Waste gas cleaning equipment at alumina fiber production facilities	
Dichloroethane cleaning equipment at vinyl chloride monomer production facilities	
Sulfuric acid concentration equipment, cyclohexane separation equipment and waste gas cleaning facilities at caprolactam production facilities	
Water-washing equipment and waste gas cleaning equipment at chlorobenzene/dichlorobenzene production facilities	
Water-washing equipment and waste gas cleaning equipment at sodium hydrogen 4-chlorophthalate production facilities	
Filtering equipment and waste gas cleaning equipment at 2,3-dichloro-1,4-naphthoquinone production facilities	
Nitrated derivative separation equipment, its cleaning equipment, deoxidation derivative separation equipment and its cleaning equipment at dioxazine violet production facilities	
Waste gas cleaning equipment on roasting furnaces, melting furnaces, drying furnaces for aluminum production and wet dust collectors	
Waste cleaning facilities and wet dust collectors at zinc recovery facilities for steelmaking electric furnace dust collectors	
Decomposition facilities, cleaning facilities and separation for waste PCBs	

Waste gas cleaning facilities of baking furnace used to manufacture supported catalysts	
For facilities used to collect metal from supported catalysts already used, filtering facilities, distillation facilities, waste gas cleaning facilities	
Facilities used to destroy fluorocarbons, plasma reaction facilities, waste gas cleaning facilities, and wet dust collection facilities	

From April 2001, the PRTR system under the PRTR Law has started and the amount of dioxins released (to air, public water bodies, soil or landfill) or transferred (to waste or sewage) have been recorded. In FY2022, 1,404 g-TEQ of dioxins were transferred or buried nationwide in wastes such as soot, dust and burnt ash.

As the amount of dioxins transferred or buried is compiled annually under the PRTR Law, the proper disposal of dioxin-contaminated wastes is being promoted while ascertaining the annual amount of dioxins transferred or buried.

Under the Waste Management Act, standards are established for each process of storage, collection and transportation, and disposal of specially controlled wastes.

During storage, collection and transportation, dioxin-contaminated wastes must be separated from other wastes.

For reclamation or recycling, the law prescribes the following limit for dioxin concentrations:

- Dioxins contained in soot, dust, burnt ash or sludge: 3 ng-TEQ/g or less.
- Dioxins contained in waste acids or waste alkalis: 100 pg-TEQ/L or less (for recycling only; burial not permitted).

After these treatments, waste can be landfilled as municipal or industrial waste or recycled if its dioxin concentration meets the standard.

Furthermore, with the strengthening of dioxin remission regulations, the government is promoting the proper and rapid dismantlement of waste incinerators that have been decommissioned due to non-compliance with these regulations, with government support for the dismantlement conducted along with facilities improvement at such sites, as well as for the dismantlement of facilities related to and contiguous with the incineration facility to be improved.

#### **4. Dioxin-containing agricultural chemicals**

Chloronitrophenol (CNP), PCP and pentachloronitrophenol (PCNB) are agricultural chemicals that were previously registered but were later found to contain dioxins. Manufacturers

of these agricultural chemicals are ordered to collect those stored by farmers along with those which were at the manufacturing and distribution stage, and store them under stringent control.

Of the collected agricultural chemicals, PCP and PCNB are being detoxified by the agricultural chemical manufacturers in accordance with the “Technical Guidance on Treatment of Agricultural Chemicals containing POPs.”

As for CNP, verification tests were conducted by business entities, and CNP is being disposed of using methods that have been confirmed to ensure proper disposal.

## **5. Industrial products containing PFOS or its salts**

### **(1) Industrial products for which PFOS or its salts are used in the manufacture**

In Japan, PFOS or its salts were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance under the Chemical Substances Control Law in 2010, and their use was prohibited except for the manufacture of etching agent, resists for semiconductors and photographic film for industrial use.

By FY2015, it was reported that all identified PFOS or its salts had been disposed of by business entities and no stock remained. Furthermore, based on the interviews to the industry organizations, alternation to other substances has been completed for the three use applications mentioned above, and no current utilization has been confirmed. Accordingly, since April 2018, the production, import and use of PFOS or its salts have been virtually prohibited.

The “Technical Note on the Treatment of Waste Containing PFOS and PFOA” was established (issued in September 2022), and the proper disposal of these wastes is being promoted.

### **(2) Foam extinguishing agents containing PFOS or its salts**

For extinguishers, extinguishing agents for fire extinguishers and foam extinguishing agents that are produced using PFOS or its salts (hereafter referred to as ‘foam extinguishing agents containing PFOS’), alternative chemicals already exist, and it is unlikely that foam extinguishing agents containing PFOS will be manufactured or imported in the future. However, large amounts have already been distributed nationwide.

According to the survey conducted by the relevant ministries, as of June 2024, approximately 12 tons (amount of PFOS or its salts contained) of the foam extinguishing agents containing PFOS were identified.

Although it is desirable that the foam extinguishing agents containing PFOS will be replaced with alternative products immediately, it is extremely difficult to replace them with alternatives in the short-term given the large amounts which have already been distributed nationwide. For this reason, the technical standards and labeling matters at the time of transfer were prepared based on the Chemical Substances Control Law to enable stringent control. Also,



standards based on the Fire Defense Law have been established to prevent leakage of the foam extinguishing agents containing PFOS to the exterior at the time of inspection of fire defense equipment. The relevant ministries will continue with the survey and awareness raising activities regarding stringent control.

For the disposal of foam extinguishing agents containing PFOS, the “Technical Note on the Treatment of Waste Containing PFOS and PFOA” was established (issued in September 2022), and the proper disposal of these wastes by relevant business entities is being promoted.

#### FY2024 National Inventory Survey Results on foam extinguishing agents containing PFOS etc.

(PFOS content)

Prefecture	Installation quantity (in PFOS or its salts equivalent *) Unit: kg					
	Total	Fire-fighting organizations	Airport	Self-Defense Forces facilities	Petrochemical complexes etc.	Others (parking facility)
Hokkaido	170	0	150	0	4	16
Aomori	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iwate	36	0	32	0	0	4
Miyagi	185	0	0	0	1	185
Akita	43	0	24	0	0	19
Yamagata	19	0	12	0	0	8
Fukushima	69	0	0	0	1	68
Ibaraki	127	0	0	0	19	108
Tochigi	25	0	0	0	0	25
Gunma	371	0	0	0	270	102
Saitama	481	0	0	0	0.3	481
Chiba	693	0	0	0	347	346
Tokyo	3,181	0	3	0	65	3,113
Kanagawa	1,165	0	0	0	21	1144
Niigata	177	0	0	0	70	107
Toyama	89	0	0	0	43	46
Ishikawa	162	0	0	0	13	148
Fukui	0.1	0	0	0	0	0.1
Yamanashi	4	0	0	0	0	4
Nagano	77	0	0.4	0	0	76
Gifu	92	0	0	0	0	92
Shizuoka	81	0	0	0	28	53
Aichi	1,215	193	0	0	53	969
Mie	74	0	0	0	60	14
Shiga	48	0	0	0	1	47
Kyoto	108	0	0	0	1	106
Osaka	949	0	0	0	601	347
Hyogo	327	0	0	0	21	306
Nara	21	0	0	0	0	21
Wakayama	12	0	0	0	0	12
Tottori	10	0	0	0	0	10
Shimane	52	0	0.1	0	0	52
Okayama	198	0	55	0	73	70

Hiroshima	279	0	8	0	10	260
Yamaguchi	154	0	43	0	97	14
Tokushima	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kagawa	44	0	40	0	0	4
Ehime	144	0	0	0	0	144
Kochi	20	0	4	0	0	16
Fukuoka	122	0	0	0	28	94
Saga	27	0	27	0	0	0
Nagasaki	106	0	29	0	63	13
Kumamoto	49	0	0.05	0	2	46
Oita	53	0	0	0	49	3
Miyazaki	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kagoshima	34	0	19	0	2	13
Okinawa	163	0	28	0	0	135
Total	11,454	193	475	0	1,946	8,841

(Note)

Fire-fighting organizations: The Fire and Disaster Management Agency conducted the survey of every fire-fighting headquarters through the prefectures. As of the end of March 2024.

Airports: The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism conducted the survey of government managed, local public authority managed and company managed airports. As of 1 April 2024.

The Self-Defense Forces facilities: The Ministry of Defense conducted the survey of the Self-Defense Forces camps, bases, ships, etc. As of the end of September 2024.

Petrochemical complexes etc.: The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry conducted the survey of relevant companies through industrial groups. As of the end of December 2023.

Others: The Ministry of the Environment conducted the survey to the extent possible with the help of the Japan Fire Extinguishing Systems Manufactures Association, General Incorporated Association. As of the end of June 2024. In addition, data provided by relevant ministries not categorized above is included.

\* In cases where types of foam extinguishing agents were evident, conversion was conducted based on the concentration of PFOS or its salts contained in the foams. When types were unclear, conversion was conducted to the extent possible using the average concentration etc.

\* These survey results are amount identified as of the survey date. There is a possibility that more foam extinguishing agents containing PFOS will be identified by the survey in the future.

\* Due to the change of calculation method of PFOS concentrations in foam extinguishing agents, these results cannot be compared with the results shown in prior national implementation plan.

## 6. Brominated flame retardants of plastics

HBB, polybromodiphenyl ethers (POP-BDEs (tetrabromodiphenyl ethers, pentabromodiphenyl ethers, hexabromodiphenyl ethers, and heptabromodiphenyl ethers)), HBCDs and decabromodiphenyl ether (DecaBDE) are brominated flame retardants. These chemicals were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance under the Chemical Substances Control Law, and their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited. (HBB and POP-BDEs were designated in 2010, HBCDs were in 2014, and DecaBDE was in 2018.)

POP-BDEs have been used in cathode ray tube monitor casings, phenolic paper laminated sheet, etc. When cathode ray tube monitor casings are discarded, the majority are sent

to home appliance recycling plants and are dismantled manually, then crushed and recycled as recycled pellets. Japan has registered this recycling as specific exemptions to the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.

As for waste containing HBCDs, POP-BDEs and DecaBDE, appropriate measures to promote proper disposal are currently under consideration, foreseeing a certain amount of disposal in the future.

## **7. Chlorine agents**

HCB and PCNs with three or more chlorines were designated as Class I specified chemical substances in 1979 under the Chemical Substances Control Law. Furthermore, HCB, PCP or its salts or esters, and PCNs with two chlorines were designated as Class I specified chemical substances in 2016 under the same Law. In addition, SCCPs with carbon chain lengths ranging from 10 to 13 and a content of chlorine exceeding 48% by weight were also designated as Class I specified chemical substances in 2018. Furthermore, dechlorane plus, which was newly specified as POPs in 2023, is designated as Class I specified chemical substances in 2025.

The status of each agent's stockpile is as below. Survey will be conducted to identify the details of storage, and the identified waste agents will be managed or disposed of properly.

As for HCB, no stockpile is currently available, except for those from unintentional production.

As for wastes of rubber products, adhesives, etc. with PCNs, verification tests were conducted by business entities, and the wastes are being disposed of using methods that have been confirmed to ensure proper disposal.

As for HCB, verification tests for the treatment of waste fluids from tetrachloroethylene and trichloroethylene production were conducted by business entities, and they are being properly disposed of using methods that have been confirmed to ensure proper disposal.

As for PCP, there is no clear evidence that PCP currently remains. Collection of information will be continued and necessary measures to promote proper disposal will be considered.

As for SCCPs, it was confirmed that SCCPs were used for resin products in automobile and wallpapers. Collection of information will be continued and necessary measures to promote proper disposal will be considered.

As for waste of dechlorane plus, necessary measures to promote proper disposal will be considered.

## **8. Industrial products containing PFOA, its salts and PFOA related substances**

### **(1) Industrial products for which PFOA, its salts or PFOA related substances are used in the manufacture**

Under the Chemical Substances Control Law, PFOA and its salts were designated as Class I specified chemical substance in October 2021, and the production, import and use are virtually prohibited. Regarding PFOA related substances, it is confirmed that they are used for raw material of pharmaceuticals and production of semiconductors. Among these, no alternatives are available for the use of 8:2 fluorotelomer alcohol (8:2FTOH) to produce 1-[(3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,10-heptadecafluorodecyl)oxy]propan-2-yl methacrylate, which is raw materials for synthetic resins used to produce medical devices used in methods involving puncture or incision, or those implanted within the human body, and the use of perfluorooctyl iodide (PFOI) to produce 1-bromo-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-heptadecafluorooctane (perfluorooctyl bromide). For those which might pose no harm to human health, exceptional manufacture and use are expected within the extent necessary. Therefore, measures to promote proper management will be implemented.

As for waste containing PFOA or its salts, the “Technical Note on the Treatment of Waste Containing PFOS and PFOA” was established, and the proper disposal of these wastes is being promoted. Furthermore, necessary measures to promote the proper disposal of wastes associated with PFOA related substances will also be considered.

### **(2) Foam extinguishing agents containing PFOA or its salts**

For extinguishers, extinguishing agents for fire extinguishers and foam extinguishing agents that are produced using PFOA or its salts (hereafter referred to as ‘foam extinguishing agents containing PFOA’), alternative chemicals already exist, and it is unlikely that foam extinguishing agents containing PFOA will be manufactured or imported in the future. However, large amounts have already been distributed nationwide.

According to the survey conducted by the relevant ministries, as of March 2024, approximately 0.012 tons (amount of PFOA or its salts contained) of the foam extinguishing agents containing PFOA were identified.

Although it is desirable that the foam extinguishing agents containing PFOA will be replaced with alternative products immediately, it is extremely difficult to replace them with alternatives in the short-term given the large amounts which have already been distributed nationwide. For this reason, the technical standards and labeling matters at the time of transfer were prepared based on the Chemical Substances Control Law to enable stringent control. Also, standards based on the Fire Defense Law have been established to prevent leakage of the foam

extinguishing agents containing PFOA to the exterior at the time of inspection of fire defense equipment. The relevant ministries will continue with the survey and awareness raising activities regarding stringent control.

For the disposal of foam extinguishing agents containing PFOA, the “Technical Note on the Treatment of Waste Containing PFOS and PFOA” was established (issued in September 2022), and the proper disposal of these wastes by relevant business entities is promoted.

FY2024 National Inventory Survey Results on foam extinguishing agents containing PFOS  
etc. (PFOA content)

Prefecture	Installation quantity (in PFOA or its salts equivalent *) Unit: kg					
	Total	Fire-fighting organizations	Airport	Self-Defense Forces facilities	Petrochemical complexes etc.	Others (parking facility)
Hokkaido	1.090	0	0.298	0.122	0.650	0.020
Aomori	0.710	0.041	0	0.428	0.241	0
Iwate	0.139	0.059	0.080	0	0	0
Miyagi	0.686	0.017	0.161	0.040	0.453	0.015
Akita	0.098	0.048	0	0	0	0.050
Yamagata	0.048	0	0.048	0	0	0
Fukushima	0.238	0	0.040	0	0.178	0.020
Ibaraki	0.054	0	0	0.054	0	0
Tochigi	0.020	0	0	0	0	0.020
Gunma	0.162	0.060	0	0.102	0	0
Saitama	0.213	0	0	0.043	0	0.170
Chiba	0.583	0.419	0	0.119	0	0.045
Tokyo	1.249	0.012	0.188	0.009	0.233	0.807
Kanagawa	0.354	0.187	0	0.072	0	0.095
Niigata	0.030	0.030	0	0	0	0
Toyama	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ishikawa	0.109	0.010	0.084	0	0	0.015
Fukui	0.141	0.100	0	0	0.029	0.012
Yamanashi	0.046	0.046	0	0	0	0
Nagano	0.123	0.023	0	0	0	0.100
Gifu	0.018	0.018	0	0	0	0
Shizuoka	0.109	0	0.108	0.001	0	0
Aichi	0.154	0.018	0	0.007	0	0.129
Mie	0.171	0.014	0	0.029	0.108	0.020
Shiga	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kyoto	0.111	0	0	0.076	0	0.035
Osaka	0.060	0	0	0	0	0.060
Hyogo	0.047	0	0	0	0	0.047
Nara	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wakayama	0.005	0.005	0	0	0	0

Tottori	0.220	0.012	0.208	0	0	0
Shimane	0.748	0	0	0	0.730	0.018
Okayama	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hiroshima	0.048	0	0	0.013	0	0.035
Yamaguchi	0.388	0.286	0	0.102	0	0
Tokushima	0.046	0	0	0.026	0	0.020
Kagawa	0.080	0	0	0	0	0.080
Ehime	2.022	2.022	0	0	0	0
Kochi	0.086	0.066	0	0	0	0.020
Fukuoka	0.278	0.048	0.094	0.076	0	0.060
Saga	0.013	0.013	0	0	0	0
Nagasaki	0.675	0.082	0.329	0.264	0	0
Kumamoto	0.073	0	0.023	0.035	0	0.015
Oita	0.034	0.034	0	0	0	0
Miyazaki	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kagoshima	0.400	0.164	0.236	0	0	0
Okinawa	0.562	0.005	0.166	0.392	0	0
Total	12.441	3.837	2.062	2.009	2.622	1.908

(Note)

Fire-fighting organizations: The Fire and Disaster Management Agency conducted the survey of every fire-fighting headquarters through the prefectures. As of the end of March 2024.

Airports: The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism conducted the survey of government managed, local public authority managed and company managed airports. As of 1 April 2024.

The Self-Defense Forces facilities: The Ministry of Defense conducted the survey of the Self-Defense Forces camps, bases, ships, etc. As of the end of March 2024.

Petrochemical complexes etc.: The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry conducted the survey of relevant companies through industrial groups. As of the end of December 2023.

Others: The Ministry of the Environment conducted the survey to the extent possible with the help of the Japan Fire Extinguishing Systems Manufacturers Association, General Incorporated Association. As of the end of June 2024. In addition, data provided by relevant ministries not categorized above is included.

\* In cases where types of foam extinguishing agents were evident, conversion was conducted based on the concentration of PFOA or its salts contained in the foams. When types were unclear, conversion was conducted to the extent possible using the average concentration etc.

\* These survey results are amount identified as of the survey date. There is a possibility that more foam extinguishing agents containing PFOA will be identified by the survey in the future.

## **9. Industrial products containing PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS related substances**

### **(1) Industrial products for which PFHxS, its salts or PFHxS related substances are used in the manufacture**

PFHxS and its salts were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substance under the Chemical Substances Control Law in February 2024, and their manufacture, import and use are virtually prohibited.

Regarding PFHxS related substances, there have been no confirmed records of manufacture or import since the notification of manufactured and import quantities began in fiscal year 2010. However, appropriate measures will be considered as necessary.

In addition, necessary measures to promote the proper disposal of wastes associated with PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS related substances will also be considered.

### **(2) Foam extinguishing agents containing PFHxS or its salts**

For extinguishers, extinguishing agents for fire extinguishers and foam extinguishing agents that are produced using PFHxS or its salts (hereafter referred to as ‘foam extinguishing agents containing PFHxS’), alternative chemicals already exist, and it is unlikely that foam extinguishing agents containing PFHxS will be manufactured or imported in the future.

According to the survey conducted by the relevant ministries, as of June 2024, no foam extinguishing agents containing PFHxS were identified.

Although the foam extinguishing agents containing PFHxS were not identified, should its existence be confirmed unexpectedly, the technical standards and labeling matters at the time of transfer were prepared based on the Chemical Substances Control Law to enable stringent control. Also, standards based on the Fire Defense Law have been established to prevent leakage of the foam extinguishing agents containing PFHxS to the exterior at the time of inspection of fire defense equipment. The relevant ministries will continue with the survey and awareness raising activities regarding stringent control.

## **10. Industrial products containing UV-328**

As for UV-328, which was newly specified as POPs in 2023, is designated as Class I specified chemical substances under the Chemical Substances Control Law in 2025. Since FY2012, the maximum quantity of manufacture and import was approximately 1,100 tons, the quantity decreased to approximately 250 tons in FY2021. While the annual domestic shipping quantity was around 300 tons from FY2012 to FY2015, it decreased to approximately 20 tons in FY2021.

It is confirmed that UV-328 is used as paint and UV absorber for plastics, appropriate measures will be considered as necessary.

In addition, necessary measures to promote the proper disposal of wastes associated with UV-328 will also be considered.

## **Section 7 Strategy for Identification of contaminated sites**

### **1. Dioxins**

#### **(1) Anti-pollution measures for soil**

Dioxins have been under regular observation by local public authorities since FY2000 in accordance with the Dioxins Law. Surveys on dioxins in soil are categorized as follows to efficiently determine the state of pollution.

##### **(i) General environmental survey**

To detect dioxin concentrations in soil in the general environment, this survey is conducted without presuming specific sources.

##### **(ii) Survey on areas surrounding sources**

This survey is conducted in areas surrounding sources to understand the effects of facilities that generate and emit dioxins to soil around these sources.

##### **(iii) Survey on target areas**

This survey is carried out to determine dioxins concentrations in soil in areas that are under threat of dioxins contamination (target areas according to the result of study on available information).

If the soil is found to exceed the survey index value of 250 pg-TEQ/g in the general environment survey, the surrounding soil is analyzed for dioxin concentration. If the site exceeds the environmental quality standard for soil of 1,000 pg-TEQ/g, a further survey is performed to determine the extent and depth of the contaminated soil.

Areas with dioxin levels exceeding the environmental quality standard for soil will be designated by the local public authority as controlled areas against soil contamination in accordance with the Dioxins Law. The local public authority will then establish Plans of Measures and implement antipollution measures based on the plan, including removal and detoxification of the soil.

By March 2023, six areas have been designated as controlled areas. Among these areas,



necessary measures such as detoxification of contaminated soil have been completed for three areas, and their designation has been canceled. As for remaining three areas, necessary measures are currently being implemented.

Soil surveys for dioxin contamination and treatment of soil contaminated by dioxins require an enormous expense. Since it is necessary to reduce costs, technological development and dissemination of its results are being addressed.

## **(2) Antipollution measures for bottom sediment**

### **(i) Contamination survey on dioxins in bottom sediment**

In response to the enforcement of the Dioxins Law in January 2000, an environmental standard regarding contamination of bottom sediment in public waters was set up in July 2002 and went into force in September.

In FY1998, local public authorities such as prefectures and municipalities nationwide carried out dioxins surveys on bottom sediment in public water bodies. Regular dioxins monitoring has been conducted since FY2000.

Also after FY1999, dioxin surveys to analyze the contamination of bottom sediment in public water bodies have been conducted continuously, and “The manual of the survey and measurement of dioxins in sediment” was published. This manual describes the methods for constant monitoring, for example, the selection of survey areas, sampling sites, and the observation and measurement items. In FY2002, dioxin surveys were conducted on ports and harbours being developed under government-sponsored projects, as well as on waterways to be developed and preserved. This aims to ensure safe, smooth implementation of dredging operations. In addition, a survey was carried out in Tokyo Bay on POPs, including dioxins, in marine sediment as part of a marine reclamation project.

### **(ii) Basic concept for anti-pollution measures for dioxins in bottom sediment**

Antipollution measures for dioxins in bottom sediment are urgently needed, because the dioxin surveys implemented so far on bottom sediment identified a number of areas where the dioxin concentration in bottom sediment fails to meet the environmental quality standard.

If bottom sediment is found contaminated beyond the environmental quality standard, some measures must be taken. In August 2002, the government issued the “Guideline on Treatment and Disposal of Bottom Sediment.” This guideline prescribes that, in taking disposal procedures such as removal of contaminated bottom sediment, consideration should be given on local characteristics such as the properties of the bottom sediment and the terrain, hydrographic conditions, flow conditions of the area, as well as fishing seasons and fishing conditions. The

guideline also requires appropriate management and storage of records regarding surveys and engineering works performed around the area. Under this guideline it is also important to implement countermeasures against sources of emission in order to prevent further pollution.

### **(iii) Implementation of anti-pollution measures for dioxins in bottom sediment**

#### **(a) Rivers and lakes**

To implement countermeasures against dioxin contamination in bottom sediment in rivers and lakes, the “Manual for measures against dioxins in bottom sediment in rivers and lakes” has been drafted in cooperation with academic experts. Based on this manual, anti-pollution measures are being implemented to address dioxins in bottom sediment in public water bodies.

#### **(b) Ports and Harbours**

To implement necessary measures safely and consistently against dioxins found in ports and harbours during dredging operation, the government compiled the “Technical Guidelines on Measures against Dioxins in Bottom Sediment of Ports and Harbours” in March 2003 (revised in April 2008) and the “Data Book on Dioxin Decomposition and Detoxification Technology for Bottom Sediment in Ports and Harbours” in March 2005 in cooperation with professional experts. These were distributed to relevant organizations.

Measures against dioxin in bottom sediment of ports and harbours are promoted on the basis of the Technical Guidelines and the Data Book.

## **2. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)**

### **(1) Antipollution measures for soil**

PCB is designated as a specified hazardous chemical under the Soil Contamination Countermeasures Act. Surveys are to be conducted, for example, when facilities that manufacture, use or dispose of PCB have closed down, and the form or nature of land changes in ways that could lead to soil contamination. If the survey results reveal that standards stipulated under the law were not met, measures would be implemented including removal of contaminated soil as necessary.

### **(2) Antipollution measures for bottom sediment**

For PCB-contaminated bottom sediment, the provisional standard value for removal is set at 10 ppm per unit of dry weight of bottom sediment. If this value is exceeded, it is obligatory to implement certain measure to remove PCB.

A nationwide survey was conducted in FY1972 on PCB-contaminated bottom sediment.

A total of 79 water areas were found to require antipollution measures, including removal of PCBs. By November 2004, antipollution measures for PCB-contaminated bottom sediment were completed for all of the 79 areas.

### **3. Others**

The Waste Management Act and the Dioxins Law require that burnt ash and dusts containing dioxins be buried in Landfill Site for Domestic Wastes and Industrial Wastes (Leachate-Controlled Type), while those exceeding the standard must be taken to Landfill Site for Hazardous Industrial Wastes (Isolated Type), in order to prevent environmental pollution.

In addition, sites where 2,4,5-T (an herbicide which contains dioxins as contaminants), were buried in an appropriate manner that prevents polluting, are managed properly.

## **Section 8 Countermeasures against chemical substances not listed in the Annexes of the Stockholm Convention**

In Japan, regulations have been imposed on industrial chemicals and agricultural chemicals that have certain characteristics such as toxicity and long-term persistency. New chemical substances are subject to prior evaluation before they are produced or imported. Production or import permission is issued only after the inspection above is conducted. Moreover, drugs etc. are assessed before production or distribution. If they are inadequate as drugs etc., production or sale permission is not issued.

Under the Chemical Substances Control Law, new industrial chemical substances are prior reviewed for degradability, accumulation, long-term toxicity on humans and toxicity to plants and animals. If a chemical is found to be highly persistent, accumulative and possess long-term toxicity to humans or top predators, the chemical is designated as a Class I Specified Chemical Substance and is thus subject to a permission procedure for production and import. In addition, its use is restricted and subject to a notification procedure. Thus the production and import of such chemicals is virtually prohibited.

Under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Act, if agricultural chemicals meet the condition prescribed in each item of paragraph 1 of Article 4, registrations of those chemicals will be refused. These conditions include fabrication of information in the registration form, when the chemical's value as an agricultural chemical is not accepted, and when the chemical may pose harm to human or livestock. In addition, if a registered agricultural chemical was found to cause damage under the condition met in item 4 to 9 or item 11 of paragraph 1 of Article 4 (e.g. when agricultural chemicals cause soil pollution and the contaminated crops may cause harm to human

or livestock), the distribution shall be prohibited on the basis of the stipulation of paragraph 2 of Article 18 to prevent adverse effects on human health and environment. Moreover, the use of such agricultural chemicals can also be prohibited following Article 24. At present, it is prohibited to distribute or use agricultural chemicals containing 28 chemicals as active ingredients, including the 18 chemicals designated under the Stockholm Convention.

As for pharmaceuticals etc., item 3 of paragraph 2 of Article 14, item 3 of paragraph 2 of Article 23.2.5, and item 3 of paragraph 2 of Article 23.25 of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act (including cases where it shall read and apply pursuant to the provisions of the Article 83) stipulates that pharmaceuticals etc. may be approved for marketing only after evaluation of their name, ingredients, composition, structure, dosage and administration, indications and usage, performance, side-effects etc. based on the toxicity, absorption and metabolism of new substances. If they are inadequate for drugs etc., production or sale permission is not issued.

Thus, in Japan, the above laws are applied to chemicals that have similar properties to those of POPs.

## **Section 9 Measures for monitoring POPs in the environment**

### **(1) Summary of activities for environmental monitoring of POPs**

The Ministry of the Environment established an expert group to discuss measures to be taken for environmental monitoring of chemicals designated under the Stockholm Convention. The group deliberated on how to determine the state of environmental contamination and how to evaluate the effects of measures currently being taken. The monitoring policy and monitoring method for POPs were developed utilizing high-resolution gas chromatography/high-resolution mass spectrometry. The monitoring policy and the monitoring method will be revised as necessary and the government will continue to carry out nationwide surveys on water, bottom sediment, air and wildlife for 29 groups of POPs and newly designated POPs, excluding dioxins.

Regular observation of PCBs, PFOS and PFOA in public waters and groundwaters by local public authorities will be reinforced in accordance with the Water Pollution Prevention Act.

As for Dioxins, local public authorities implement large-scale nationwide surveys under the Dioxins Law, which also requires regular observation, in public water, bottom sediment, ambient air and soil; this survey will continue. The government will also continue to implement surveys on human biological samples.

In addition, a survey will be implemented to examine the distribution of land-derived POPs and their effects on the marine environment.

Moreover, the government will conduct environmental monitoring of the possible POPs

chemicals.

More specifically, these surveys on chemicals designated under the Stockholm Convention will be carried out as follows.

**(2) 29 groups of chemicals other than dioxins and newly designated chemical substances**

**(i) Chemicals surveyed**

- PCBs (total PCBs and concentrations of congeners with 1 to 10 chlorines)
- DDTs (o,p'-DDT, p,p'-DDT, o,p'-DDE, p,p'-DDE, o,p'-DDD and p,p'-DDD)
- Chlordanes (trans-chlordane, cis-chlordane, trans-nonachlor, cis-nonachlor and oxychlordane)
- Dieldrin, aldrin, endrin, mirex
- Toxaphenes (Parlar-26, Parlar-50, Parlar-62)
- HCB
- Heptachlors (Heptachlor, cis-heptachlor epoxide, trans-heptachlor epoxide)
- HCHs ( $\alpha$ -HCH,  $\beta$ -HCH,  $\gamma$ -HCH,  $\delta$ -HCH)
- Chlordecone
- HBB
- Polybromodiphenyl ethers (number of bromine: 4 to 10)
- PFOS or its salts, PFOSF
- PeCB
- Endosulfan
- HB CDs ( $\alpha$ -HB CD,  $\beta$ -HB CD,  $\gamma$ -HB CD,  $\delta$ -HB CD,  $\epsilon$ -HB CD)
- PCNs (total PCNs and concentrations of congeners with 1 to 8 chlorines)
- HCB D
- PCP and its salts and esters
- SCCPs (chlorinated decane, chlorinated undecane, chlorinated dodecane and chlorinated tridecane)
- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
- Dicofol (p,p'-dicofol)
- PFH<sub>x</sub>S

**(Newly designated chemicals)**

- Methoxyclor
- Dechlorane plus
- UV-328

(ii) Media and sites of survey (Results of FY2022 survey)

- Water (48 sites including major rivers, major lakes, ports and harbours.)
- Water (1,258 sites in rivers, lakes, seas and groundwaters under the Water Pollution Prevention Act)
- Bottom sediment (61 sites including major rivers, major lakes, ports and harbours.)
- Air (36 sites selected from 100-km<sup>2</sup> gridded area nationwide)
- Wildlife (Total of 23 sites for Rock greenling, Chum salmon, Greenling, Chub mackerel, Sea bass, Striped mullet, Dace, Spanish mackerel, Okinawa seabeam, Blue mussel, and Great Cormorant)

**(3) Dioxins**

(i) Chemicals surveyed

PCDDs, PCDFs and coplanar PCBs

(ii) Media and sites of survey (Results of FY2022 survey)

- Water (major rivers, major lakes, reservoirs, ports and harbours: 1,348 sites)
- Bottom sediment (major rivers, major lakes, reservoirs, ports and harbours: 1,120 sites)
- Air (general environment, areas surrounding sources of emission, roadsides: 570 sites)
- Soil (general environment, areas surrounding sources of emission: 697 sites)
- Groundwater (459 sites)
- Human biological samples (blood)

**Section 10 International measures**

**1. Measures in responses to the Stockholm Convention**

**(1) Assistance to developing countries, etc.**

In many cases, developing countries do not have regulatory frameworks for hazardous substances, which may result in environmental pollution and public health hazards. It is important to enhance the capabilities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to manage chemical substances in order to eliminate or reduce releases of POPs on a global scale. Japan, as a developed country Party, continues to cooperate actively in providing financial and technical assistance to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition under the paragraph 2 of Article 12 and Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, taking into account the concerns and needs of these countries in the area of finance and technology.

#### (i) Technical cooperation

Japan has provided technical cooperation to developing countries in the fields of environmental management technology for the chemical industry, technology for the analysis and risk assessment of the environmental load of chemical substances, technology for the microanalysis of chemical substances, etc. by dispatching experts to and receiving trainees from these countries. Through bilateral ODA projects, more than 150 trainees have participated in “Training Course for Chemical Management Policy” under “Knowledge Co-Creation Program” since 2005, and the regional training courses for Asian countries on management and reduction of chemical substances “Chemical Management Policy: Reflecting International Discussion” since 2011. From 2011 to 2015, Japan also provided international training courses for capacity building in POPs management in cooperation with Brazil to 10 Latin American countries, to help them achieve the targets under the Stockholm Convention. In Serbia, in addition to the capacity building project for POPs analysis and reduction measures that continued until 2017, Japan has now launched projects that contribute to the remediation of soil and groundwater contamination in chemical industrial areas. Such cooperation will be continued upon requests from developing countries.

#### (ii) Financial assistance

The interim financial assistance arrangements under the Stockholm Convention are operated by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). GEF in principle provides grants to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to cover their incremental costs for responding to global environmental issues. GEF has also been designated as the financial mechanisms for several multilateral environmental agreements respectively, which are aimed at reduction of environmental emission and proper management of mercury, reduction of the emission of greenhouse gas emissions, protection of biodiversity etc. To the eighth replenishment of GEF (for the period from July 2022 to June 2026), Japan has contributed 638 million dollars representing 13.8% of the Fund’s total of 46.4 billion dollars in pledges.

#### (iii) Regional arrangements

As a part of Japan’s regional programs in the East Asia region, the Ministry of the Environment and the National Institute for Environmental Studies have held the East Asia POPs Monitoring Workshop beginning in FY2002 to build a monitoring framework to determine the trends of POPs in the East Asia region, and to enable continuous data collection necessary for effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention.

Results of the surveys done in eight countries in the East Asia region until FY2006 and

in six countries until FY2012 were compiled in the “Asia Pacific Monitoring Report (December 2008)” and “Second Asia Pacific Monitoring Report (March 2015),” respectively, which were submitted to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention. In addition, the result of the surveys done in four countries in the East Asia region until FY2017 was submitted as the “Third Asia Pacific Monitoring Report (April 2021)” to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.

Japan, in cooperation with neighboring areas such as East Asia, will continue to conduct POPs monitoring surveys providing technical assistance, and contribute to the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention based on Article 16.

## **(2) Exchange of information**

Japan exchanges information with other Parties and the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention through the Global Environment Division of the International Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## **2. Coordination with other related international conventions**

In addition to the Stockholm Convention, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (hereafter referred to as the Basel Convention) and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (hereafter referred to as the PIC Convention) are also international conventions related to the management of chemical substances. Japan has been cooperating actively in the implementation of these Conventions and recognizes that the Stockholm Convention and these Conventions in the field of trade and the environment are mutually supportive.

The Basel Convention, which aims to regulate the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes, was adopted in March 1989 and entered into force in May 1992. Japan acceded to the Convention in September 1993 and the Convention came into effect in Japan in December 1993. Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention stipulates that the Conference of Parties to the Convention shall cooperate closely with appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention. Japan was the leading country in the update of technical guideline on the environmentally sound management of PCB wastes (adopted in the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in May 2015) which was established under the Basel Convention, as stipulated under Paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention. Japan is also the leading country in the revision project to add PCN waste in the same guideline. In addition, Paragraph 1 (d) (iv) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention stipulates that wastes shall not be transported across international boundaries without taking into account



relevant international rules, standards and guidelines. These rules include the regulations under the Basel Convention. The Basel Convention also requires waste management in an environmentally sound manner. In Japan, the Basel Law and the Waste Management Act have been properly enforced to regulate the import and export of hazardous wastes. Wastes that contain POPs and are designated as specific hazardous wastes under the Basel Law are required to be properly managed from the perspective of the environment under the Basel Law. To publicize the scope of the Basel Convention and the regulations under the Basel Law to prevent illegal export of wastes, the government, in cooperation with Customs Offices, has organized briefing meetings on the Basel Law, etc. across the country. The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry have also conducted prior consultation services on matters relating to the export and import of hazardous wastes.

The PIC Convention stipulates prior informed consent (PIC: Prior Informed Consent) procedure for certain hazardous chemical substances and pesticides in international trade. The PIC Convention was adopted at the Diplomatic Conference held in September 1998, and entered into force in February 2004. Japan deposited the instrument of acceptance with the depository in June 2004 and the PIC Convention entered into force in Japan in September 2004.

Paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Stockholm Convention stipulates that when the POPs listed in Annex A and Annex B are to be exported in accordance with their specific exemption, any relevant provisions in existing international prior informed consent instruments should be taken into account. Therefore, parties are required to take into account the PIC system as set forth in the PIC Convention, etc., when they are to export in exceptional circumstances the POPs referred to in that Article.

The government will continue to actively cooperate under these Conventions related to chemical management.

Activities to enhance cooperation and coordination (synergy) among the three Conventions are in progress. For example, the Stockholm, Basel and PIC Conventions have established a joint Secretariat, and the regional centers established under the Stockholm and Basel Conventions are being used to provide technical assistance for capacity building to enhance the ability of developing countries to implement their obligations under the three Conventions. Further cooperation and coordination among the three Conventions are expected to raise awareness of the importance of chemical substance and waste management and further promote the enhancement of the implementation of each Convention. Japan continues to participate appropriately in international activities to strengthen synergies among the three Conventions through cooperation among the relevant ministries and agencies.

## Section 11 Provision of information

### 1. Compilation of information

The government has taken various measures for providing information on POPs. For example, it has made efforts for raising awareness and promoting understanding of POPs issues through the provision of information on POPs such as webpages and pamphlets on POPs, as well as on dioxins and PCBs (see table below).

The government will continue to actively provide information on POPs.

Pamphlets and brochures	POPs - Persistent Organic Pollutants -
	Dioxins 2012 (Japanese version)
	Dioxins 2012 (English version)
	Toward the Sound Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Containing Products and PCB Wastes Within the Designated Timeframe
Webpages	POPs • <a href="https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/chemical_management/int/pops.html">https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/chemical_management/int/pops.html</a> • <a href="https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/pops/treaty.html">https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/pops/treaty.html</a>
	Chemical Substances Control Law • <a href="https://www.nihs.go.jp/mhlw/chemical/kashin/kashin.html">https://www.nihs.go.jp/mhlw/chemical/kashin/kashin.html</a> • <a href="https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/chemical_management/kasinhou/index.html">https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/chemical_management/kasinhou/index.html</a> • <a href="https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/kagaku/index.html">https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/kagaku/index.html</a>
	Measures against Dioxins (in Japanese) • <a href="https://www.env.go.jp/air/dioxin/dioxin.html">https://www.env.go.jp/air/dioxin/dioxin.html</a>
	Polychlorinated Biphenyls Wastes • <a href="https://www.env.go.jp/recycle/poly/index.html">https://www.env.go.jp/recycle/poly/index.html</a>
	Per- and poyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) (in Japanese) • <a href="https://www.env.go.jp/water/pfas.html">https://www.env.go.jp/water/pfas.html</a>

### 2. Consultation with stakeholders

Paragraph 2 of Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention stipulates that the “Parties shall, where appropriate, cooperate directly or through global, regional and subregional organizations, and consult their national stakeholders, including women’s groups and groups involved in the health of children, in order to facilitate the development, implementation and updating of their implementation plans.”

After the Interim Guidance for Developing a National Implementation Plan was presented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Bank at the sixth Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee held in June 2002, the Ministry of the Environment organized meetings to exchange opinions with NGOs etc. Furthermore, in the development and

revision of the national implementation plan, the government has published the document for public comments at the drafting stage.

The government will continue to communicate with the relevant stakeholders.

### **3. Publicity activities**

In addition to compilation and provision of information on POPs as explained in subsection 1 above, the Ministries have taken actions such as press releases and distribution of pamphlets in occasions such as the agreement to the draft Convention text at the fifth Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee, the adoption of the Convention at the Diplomatic Conference, Japan's accession to the Convention and the results of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

The government will continue to provide information on POPs on webpages and through pamphlets etc., and conduct press releases in a timely manner.

## **Section 12 Promotion of research and technological development**

### **1. Overall policy**

In “4. Environmental risk management” of Chapter 3, Part II of the Basic Environment Plan (Cabinet decision on May 21, 2024), it states that “it is important to develop safer chemical substances and reduce risks to implement a sustainable society,” such as the importance of research and innovations to promote “the prevention and minimization of environmental risks through safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable solutions in product value chains in place,” which contribute to the strategic objective of the Global Framework on Chemicals. In “5. Various basic measures” of Chapter 3, Part II of the plan, it mentions that “the accumulation of scientific findings and improvement of basic information will be promoted to facilitate policy decisions and implementation based on scientific knowledge.”

### **2. Individual research and technological development**

In accordance with paragraph 1 (a) to (g) of Article 11 of the Stockholm Convention, the comprehensive research and technological development shall be promoted, regarding (1) the environmental behavior including sources, monitoring, analysis and modeling, (2) effects on human health, the environment and society, (3) technologies for release reduction and

detoxification. This includes, but not limited to, the following.

In promoting these researches, it is important to note that the results should be applicable to and effective for not only Japan but also the neighboring countries or developing countries, because POPs issues are not limited to Japan.

### **(1) Environmental behavior including source, monitoring, analysis and modeling**

Multimedia models for POPs on source, monitoring, analysis and modeling relevant to environmental behaviors was developed, taking into account environmental factors distinct to Japan and Asia.

A simple and rapid method for the extraction of POPs from soil was developed and studies to ascertain physiological mechanism regarding absorption and transportation of POPs in various crop plants were conducted. A study to develop a method to predict residual concentrations in cucurbitaceous vegetable based on POPs concentrations in agricultural soil was conducted.

Methods to enable sensitive detection of environmental POPs concentrations will be conducted as well.

For brominated dioxins, assessment was done on the status of emissions from sources.

### **(2) Effects on human health, the environment and society**

Regarding the estimation of biodegradability and bioaccumulation which are evaluation points for POPs, evaluation methods using structure-activity relationship (SAR) based on chemical structure and empirical rules were adopted. These methods are used to evaluate the Small Volume New Chemical Substances under the Chemical Substances Control Law.

### **(3) Technologies for release reduction and detoxification**

Basic studies were carried out including chemical degradation technologies using iron, soil decontamination technologies using complex degrading bacteria and wood based carbonization material, search of degrading bacteria, soil cleansing utilizing highly absorbent plants, and development of technologies to restrain absorption by crops through the application of absorption materials (activated carbon) to soil.

## **Chapter 4 Review and updating of the national implementation plan**

The Inter-Ministerial General Directors' Meeting will review the national implementation plan, accommodating the periodic intervals on reporting the implementation status of the Convention decided by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, and publish the outcomes for comments.

Furthermore, the Inter-Ministerial General Directors' Meeting will, if necessary, update the national implementation plan and submit it to the Conference of Parties, in response to cases such as the addition of the chemicals to the Stockholm Convention, the revision of related domestic plans and various changes in the environment and the economy.

The national implementation plan will undergo public commenting for its revision, including the outcomes of the review.

# Appendix

## 1. Status of general environment (Tables and Figures)

Table 1: Status of monitoring of POPs (Wildlife/ Air)

Table 2: Status of monitoring of POPs (Water/ Sediment/ Soil)

Table 3: Latest analytical method and minimum detectable concentrations for POPs

Table 4: Number of survey sites for dioxins and their concentrations by fiscal year

Table 5: Concentration distributions of PCBs, PFOS, and PFOA in water (FY 2022)

Figure 1: Temporal trends of HCH concentrations in shellfish and fish

Figure 2: Temporal trends of HCH concentrations in air (warm season)

Figure 3: Temporal trends of HCH concentrations in water

Figure 4: Temporal trends of HCH concentrations in sediment

Figure 5: Temporal trends of PFOS concentrations in air (warm season), water, and sediment

Figure 6: Temporal trends of PeCB concentrations in shellfish, fish, water, and sediment

Figure 7: Temporal trends of PFOA concentrations in shellfish, fish, air (warm season), water, and sediment

## 2. Government Plan to Reduce Dioxins Levels Resulting from Business Activities in Japan

## 1. Status of general environment (Tables and Figures)

Table 1: Status of monitoring of POPs (Wildlife/ Air)

[illegible]

B1: Survey on the actual condition of chemical substances in the environment (until FY2001); B2: Survey on the actual condition of chemical substances in the environment (after FY2002); D: Survey under the Law concerning Special Measures against Dioxins;

E: Survey on the environmental endocrine disruption; A: The air pollutants monitoring; O: Other survey

(B2): HCHs in air between FY2003 and FY2008 were treated as missing data.

- \* Detail of the survey on the actual condition of chemical substances in the environment: Refer to Ministry of the Environment web site <https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/kurohon/en/index.html> (Also refer to annual reports before FY1996)
- \* Details of the survey under the Law concerning Special Measures against Dioxins: Refer to Ministry of the Environment web site [https://www.env.go.jp/air/dioxin/post\\_64.html](https://www.env.go.jp/air/dioxin/post_64.html) (Only in Japanese)
- \* Details of the survey on the environmental endocrine disruptors: Refer to the working group materials on Ministry of the Environment web site <https://www.env.go.jp/chemi/end/speed98.html> (Only in Japanese)



[illegible]

B1: Survey on the actual condition of chemical substances in the environment (until FY2001); B2: Survey on the actual condition of chemical substances in the environment (after FY2002); D: Survey under the Law concerning Special Measures against Dioxins; E: Survey on the environmental endocrine disruption; W: Survey under the Water Pollution Control Law; O: Other survey

- 108

Table 3: Latest analytical method and minimum detectable concentrations for POPs

Compound	Wildlife	Air	Water	Sediment	Soil
Dioxins <sup>1</sup>	-	HRGC/HRMS	GC/MS	GC/HRMS	GC/HRMS
PCBs <sup>2</sup>	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (5 pg/g-wet)	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.3 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (5 pg/L)	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (3 pg/g-dry)	-
HCB	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.8 pg/g-wet)	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.04 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.3 pg/L)	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.3 pg/g-dry)	-
Drins	GC/HRMS (0.7 - 1 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS (0.07 - 4 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/HRMS (0.2 pg/L)*	GC/HRMS (0.6 - 0.9 pg/g-dry)*	-
DDTs	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.9 - 2 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.03 - 0.06 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.1 - 0.3 pg/L)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.2 - 0.3 pg/g-dry)*	-
Chlordanes	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (1 - 2 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.03 - 0.06 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/HRMS SIM-E (0.5 - 2 pg/L)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.2 - 0.7 pg/g-dry)*	-
Heptachlors	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (1 - 4 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.04 - 0.05 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.7 - 1 pg/L)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.2 - 0.7 pg/g-dry)*	-
Toxaphenes	GC/Q-TOF-MS SIM-NCI (6 - 40 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS (0.2 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/MS NCI (2 - 20 pg/L)*	GC/MS NCI (3 - 20 pg/g-dry)*	-
Mirex	GC/HRMS (0.5 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS (0.01 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/HRMS (0.3 pg/L)*	GC/HRMS (0.3 pg/g-dry)*	-
HCHs	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.4 pg/g-wet)	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.03 - 0.04 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.2 - 0.7 pg/L)	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.3 - 0.6 pg/g-dry)*	-
Hexabromobiphenyls <sup>2</sup>	GC/HRMS-SIM-EI (5 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS (0.02 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/HRMS (0.9 pg/L)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.3 pg/g-dry)*	-
Polybromodiphenyl ethers (Br <sub>4</sub> -Br <sub>10</sub> )	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (1 - 5 pg/g-wet)	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.05 - 0.3 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.8 - 4 pg/L)	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.9 - 8 pg/g-dry)	-
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (3 pg/g-wet)	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (0.07 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (30 pg/L)	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (4 pg/g-dry)	-
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (3 pg/g-wet)	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (0.2 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (30 pg/L)	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (3 pg/g-dry)	-
Pentachlorobenzene	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.2 pg/g-wet)	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.03 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.2 pg/L)	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.2 pg/g-dry)	-
Chlordecone	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (0.2 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS (0.02 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (0.05 pg/L)*	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (0.20 pg/g-dry)*	-
Endosulfans	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (6 - 20 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.2 - 0.3 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (10 - 40 pg/L)*	GC/HRMS (0.6 - 0.9 pg/g-dry)*	-
Hexabromocyclododecane	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (20 pg/g-wet)	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative or LC/Q-TOF-MS SIR-APCI-negative (0.05 - 0.07 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (200 - 300 pg/L)	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (30 - 70 pg/g-dry)*	-
Total polychlorinated naphthalene <sup>2</sup>	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (13 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.3 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (6 pg/L)	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (3.6 pg/g-dry)*	-

Compound	Wildlife	Air	Water	Sediment	Soil
Hexachlorobutadiene	GC/MS/MS MRM-EI (4 pg/g-wet)	GC/MS SIM-EI (20 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	GC/MS/MS MRM-EI (40 pg/L)	GC/MS/MS MRM-EI (10 pg/g-dry)	-
Pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (1 - 4 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.1 - 0.2 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (10 - 20 pg/L)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.8 - 2 pg/g-dry)*	-
Short-chain chlorinated paraffins	GC/TOF-MS EI or NICI (200 - 400 pg/g-wet)	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative or LC/Q-TOF-MS SIR-APCI-negative (40 - 120 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	GC/TOF-MS EI or NICI (100 - 300 pg/L)	GC/TOF-MS EI or NICI (70 - 200 pg/g-dry)	-
Dicofol	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (10 pg/g-wet)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (0.2 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	GC/MS-MS MRM-EI (5 pg/L)*	GC/HRMS SIM-EI (5 pg/g-dry)*	-
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (3 pg/g-wet)	(0.04 pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (30 pg/L)	LC/MS/MS SRM-ESI-negative (3 pg/g-dry)	-

\*: No survey in FY 2022 (analytical method and minimum detectable concentration for FY 2021 or before)      -: No survey in FY 2022

1 The nationwide monitoring of dioxins was started in 1985 with respect to bottom sediment in the rivers, lakes and sea waters and aquatic organisms, and in 1986 with respect to the ambient air. In 1998, water and soil also became subject to nationwide monitoring of dioxins using HRGC/HRMS. A highly sensitive analytical method for PCBs, HRGC/HRMS was introduced in 2000. Moreover, the government has carried out nationwide environmental monitoring of other POPs, changing the analytical methods from GC-ECD to GC/HRMS (high-resolution) on wildlife, and from GC/MS to GC/HRMS (high-resolution) on water and bottom sediment. Besides above surveys, local public authorities have been monitoring PCBs, PFOS, and PFOA in rivers, lakes, marshes, sea waters, and groundwater as part of the regular-observation system under the Water Pollution Prevention Act.

2 For PCBs and Hexabromobiphenyls, minimum detectable concentrations shown in the table are the sum of the limits for each congener.

Table 4: Number of survey sites for dioxins and their concentrations by fiscal year

Unit:  
 Air pg-TEQ/m<sup>3</sup>  
 Water pg-TEQ/L  
 Sediment pg-TEQ/g  
 oil pg-TEQ/g

Environmental mediums	Type of survey or site category (water groups)		FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	EQSs	
Air	all sites	average	0.55	0.23	0.18	0.15	0.13	0.093	0.068	0.059	0.052	0.050	0.041	0.036	0.032	0.032	0.028	0.027	0.023	0.021	0.021	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.017	0.017	0.015	0.015	0.6	
		range	0.010	0.0	0.0065	0.0073	0.0090	0.0066	0.0066	0.0083	0.0039	0.0053	0.0042	0.0032	0.0049	0.0054	0.0051	0.0047	0.0029	0.0036	0.0042	0.0034	0.0033	0.0032	0.0025	0.0025	0.0022	0.0024		
		(no. of sites)	(68)	(458)	(463)	(920)	(979)	(966)	(913)	(892)	(825)	(763)	(740)	(721)	(712)	(691)	(689)	(676)	(666)	(645)	(660)	(642)	(629)	(619)	(621)	(614)	(584)	(570)		
		average	0.55	0.23	0.18	0.14	0.14	0.093	0.064	0.058	0.051	0.051	0.041	0.035	0.031	0.031	0.028	0.025	0.022	0.020	0.019	0.017	0.018	0.018	0.016	0.017	0.014	0.014		
		(no. of sites)	(63)	(381)	(353)	(705)	(762)	(731)	(691)	(694)	(628)	(577)	(565)	(538)	(536)	(530)	(522)	(520)	(508)	(497)	(497)	(493)	(481)	(471)	(469)	(465)	(450)	(436)		
		vicinity of sources	average	0.58	0.20	0.18	0.15	0.13	0.092	0.078	0.063	0.055	0.050	0.040	0.041	0.035	0.036	0.032	0.030	0.027	0.022	0.028	0.021	0.022	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.017		0.016
	along roads	(no. of sites)	(2)	(61)	(96)	(189)	(190)	(206)	(188)	(161)	(165)	(158)	(148)	(156)	(147)	(133)	(142)	(132)	(135)	(122)	(137)	(125)	(124)	(122)	(128)	(121)	(109)	(106)		
		average	0.47	0.19	0.23	0.17	0.16	0.091	0.076	0.055	0.054	0.050	0.044	0.036	0.031	0.028	0.025	0.030	0.025	0.025	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.015	0.014	0.017	0.012	0.014		
	water	all sites	(no. of sites)	(3)	(16)	(14)	(26)	(27)	(29)	(34)	(37)	(32)	(28)	(27)	(27)	(29)	(28)	(25)	(24)	(23)	(26)	(26)	(24)	(24)	(26)	(24)	(28)	(25)		(28)
			average	-	0.50	0.24	0.31	0.25	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.18	0.019	0.18	0.18		0.18
range			-	0.065	0.054	0.012	0.0028	0.010	0.020	0.0069	0.0070	0.014	0.0097	0.013	0.011	0.010	0.012	0.0084	0.013	0.012	0.011	0.011	0.010	0.0084	0.010	0.013	0.0012	0.0012		
(no. of sites)			-	(204)	(568)	(2,116)	(2,213)	(2,207)	(2,126)	(2,057)	(1,912)	(1,870)	(1,818)	(1,714)	(1,617)	(1,610)	(1,594)	(1,571)	(1,537)	(1,480)	(1,491)	(1,459)	(1,442)	(1,431)	(1,411)	(1,411)	(1,382)	(1,348)		
River			average	-	-	0.40	0.36	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.25	0.24	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.21	0.22	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20		
(no. of sites)			-	-	(186)	(1,612)	(1,674)	(1,663)	(1,615)	(1,591)	(1,464)	(1,454)	(1,408)	(1,330)	(1,244)	(1,223)	(1,229)	(1,207)	(1,189)	(1,149)	(1,147)	(1,132)	(1,122)	(1,106)	(1,088)	(1,107)	(1,066)	(1,015)		
Lakes and Reservoirs		average	-	-	0.25	0.22	0.21	0.18	0.20	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.16	0.21	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.20	0.15	0.19	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.22	0.17	0.15		
		(no. of sites)	-	-	(63)	(104)	(95)	(102)	(99)	(100)	(89)	(91)	(91)	(90)	(86)	(91)	(79)	(87)	(83)	(75)	(93)	(82)	(78)	(90)	(87)	(74)	(92)	(79)		
Sea area		average	-	-	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.092	0.094	0.095	0.082	0.096	0.072	0.078	0.077	0.073	0.065	0.069	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.068	0.074	0.077	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.070		
		(no. of sites)	-	-	(319)	(400)	(444)	(442)	(412)	(366)	(359)	(325)	(319)	(294)	(287)	(296)	(286)	(267)	(265)	(256)	(251)	(245)	(242)	(235)	(236)	(230)	(224)	(218)		
Public Water	all sites	average	-	8.3	5.4	9.6	8.5	9.8	7.4	7.5	6.4	6.7	7.4	7.2	7.1	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.4	7.1	6.8	6.7	5.9	6.4	6.5	5.9	6.1		
		range	-	0.10	0.066	0.0011	0.012	0.0087	0.057	0.050	0.045	0.056	0.044	0.067	0.059	0.054	0.050	0.042	0.056	0.068	0.059	0.053	0.043	0.0083	0.014	0.04	0.058	0.033		
		(no. of sites)	-	(205)	(542)	(1,836)	(1,813)	(1,784)	(1,825)	(1,740)	(1,623)	(1,548)	(1,505)	(1,398)	(1,316)	(1,244)	(1,229)	(1,207)	(1,189)	(1,149)	(1,147)	(1,132)	(1,122)	(1,106)	(1,088)	(1,107)	(1,066)	(1,015)		
		River	average	-	-	5.0	9.2	7.3	8.5	6.3	7.1	5.6	5.8	6.6	6.5	6.3	5.9	6.3	6.0	6.1	5.7	6.6	6.4	6.1	5.1	5.8	5.9	5.4	5.5	
		(no. of sites)	-	-	(171)	(1,367)	(1,360)	(1,338)	(1,377)	(1,336)	(1,241)	(1,191)	(1,152)	(1,071)	(1,011)	(1,001)	(1,009)	(982)	(948)	(921)	(942)	(917)	(928)	(903)	(901)	(918)	(868)	(860)		
		Lakes and Reservoirs	average	-	-	9.8	11	18	13	11	9.4	8.4	9.2	10	9.2	10	9.1	9.0	8.8	8.5	8.9	8.2	7.7	8.1	7.9	8.5	8.3	7.1	7.3	
	(no. of sites)		-	-	(52)	(102)	(85)	(86)	(89)	(90)	(79)	(84)	(82)	(75)	(84)	(68)	(76)	(73)	(64)	(86)	(76)	(70)	(83)	(79)	(65)	(84)	(70)			
	Sea area	average	-	-	4.9	11	11	14	11	9.0	9.2	9.7	10	9.4	10	10	9.5	9.5	8.6	8.7	9.1	8.4	8.7	8.8	7.8	8.7	7.4	8.4		
		(no. of sites)	-	-	(319)	(367)	(368)	(360)	(359)	(314)	(303)	(273)	(271)	(245)	(230)	(243)	(243)	(238)	(226)	(212)	(204)	(209)	(207)	(201)	(199)	(195)	(195)	(190)		
	Ground Water	average	-	0.17	0.096	0.092	0.074	0.066	0.059	0.063	0.047	0.056	0.055	0.048	0.055	0.048	0.047	0.049	0.26	0.050	0.042	0.055	0.049	0.044	0.047	0.054	0.053	0.045		
range		-	0.046	0.062	0.00081	0.00020	0.011	0.00032	0.0079	0.0088	0.013	0.0076	0.010	0.011	0.0098	0.0084	0.0084	0.011	0.012	0.0036	0.0073	0.0071	0.0072	0.0085	0.0087	0.00028	0.0018			
(no. of sites)		-	(188)	(296)	(1,479)	(1,473)	(1,310)	(1,200)	(1,101)	(922)	(878)	(759)	(634)	(608)	(590)	(538)	(546)	(556)	(530)	(515)	(513)	(498)	(511)	(498)	(493)	(467)	(459)			
Soil	Total	average	-	6.5	-	6.9	6.2	3.8	4.4	3.1	5.9	2.6	3.1	3.1	2.5	3.0	3.4	2.6	3.6	2.3	2.6	3.2	3.4	2.5	3	3.8	3.4	2.3		
		range	-	0.0015	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00060	0		
		(no. of sites)	-	(286)	-	(3,031)	(3,735)	(3,300)	(3,059)	(2,618)	(1,782)	(1,505)	(1,285)	(1,073)	(976)	(998)	(969)	(917)	(921)	(872)	(852)	(833)	(835)	(818)	(825)	(773)	(760)	(697)		
		average	-	-	4.6	3.2	3.4	2.6	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.7	2.8	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.6	2.2	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.9	2.5	1.6			
		(no. of sites)	-	-	(1,942)	(2,313)	(2,282)	(2,128)	(1,983)	(1,314)	(1,159)	(991)	(831)	(717)	(714)	(674)	(654)	(647)	(603)	(599)	(577)	(583)	(559)	(547)	(530)	(513)	(505)			
		vicinity of sources	average	-	-	11	11	4.7	8.4	6.0	17	5.0	4.3	4.1	3.5	5.4	6.7	5.0	7.0	4.0	4.4	5.9	7.2	4.7	5.3	8.0	5.4	4.2		

(Air)

Note 1: From FY1997 to FY 1999, the data is the results of environmental air monitor survey under the Air Pollution Control Law (The survey results of old Environment Agency are included).

Note 2: It limits to the sites evaluating the annual average with environmental quality standards.

Note 3: For the calculation of toxicity equivalent, I-TEF(1988), WHO-TEF (1998) and WHO-TEF (2006) have been used before FY 1998, from FY 1999 to FY 2007, and after FY 2008, respectively.

Note 4: In principle, before FY 1998, when the concentration measurement of each isomer is less than minimum limit of determination, the toxicity equivalent has been calculated as zero.

After FY 1999, when the concentration measurement of each isomer is less than minimum limit of determination and it is more than the detection lower bound,

toxicity equivalent is calculated as it is. When it is less than the detection lower bound, the toxicity equivalent has been calculated by using the value of 1/2 of the detection lower bound for each isomer.

(Water quality of public waters and groundwater)

Note 1: WHO-TEF(1998) has been used for the calculation of toxicity equivalent before FY 2007, and WHO-TEF (2006) has been used after FY 2008.

Note 2: When the concentration measurement of each isomer is less than minimum limit of determination and it is more than the detection lower bound, toxicity equivalent is calculated as it is. When it is less than the detection lower bound, the toxicity equivalent has been calculated by using the value of 1/2 of the detection lower bound for each isomer.

(Soil)

Note 1: WHO-TEF(1998) has been used for the calculation of toxicity equivalent before FY 2007, and WHO-TEF (2006) has been used after FY 2008.

Note 2: When the concentration measurement of each isomer is less than minimum limit of determination, the toxicity equivalent has been calculated as zero.

Note 3: After FY 2009, results of sites using simplified assay are not included in the table above, by reason that the results cannot be used for calculation of average, concentration range, etc.

Note4: The survey has been conducting according to the annual plan by the local public authorities. Number of survey sites for each year is not same.

Table 5: Measurement situation of PCBs, PFOS, and PFOA in public water and groundwater (FY 2022)

	Public water									Groundwater		
	River		Lakes and Reservoirs		Sea waters		All sites					
	a: no. of location exceeding EQSs	b: no. of location surveyed	a: no. of location exceeding EQSs	b: no. of location surveyed	a: no. of location exceeding EQSs	b: no. of location surveyed	a: no. of location exceeding EQSs	b: no. of location surveyed	a/b (%)	a: no. of well exceeding EQSs	b: no. of well surveyed	a/b (%)
PCB	0	1,845	0	158	0	436	0	2,439	0	0	1,815	0
PFOS and PFOA *	36	732	1	32	0	112	37	876	4.2	74	382	19

EQSs: Environmental quality standards

\* The number of sites exceeding the provisional guideline value of PFOS and PFOA is noted. Measures are being taken at sites where the monitoring results exceed the provisional guideline value to prevent exposure through drinking.

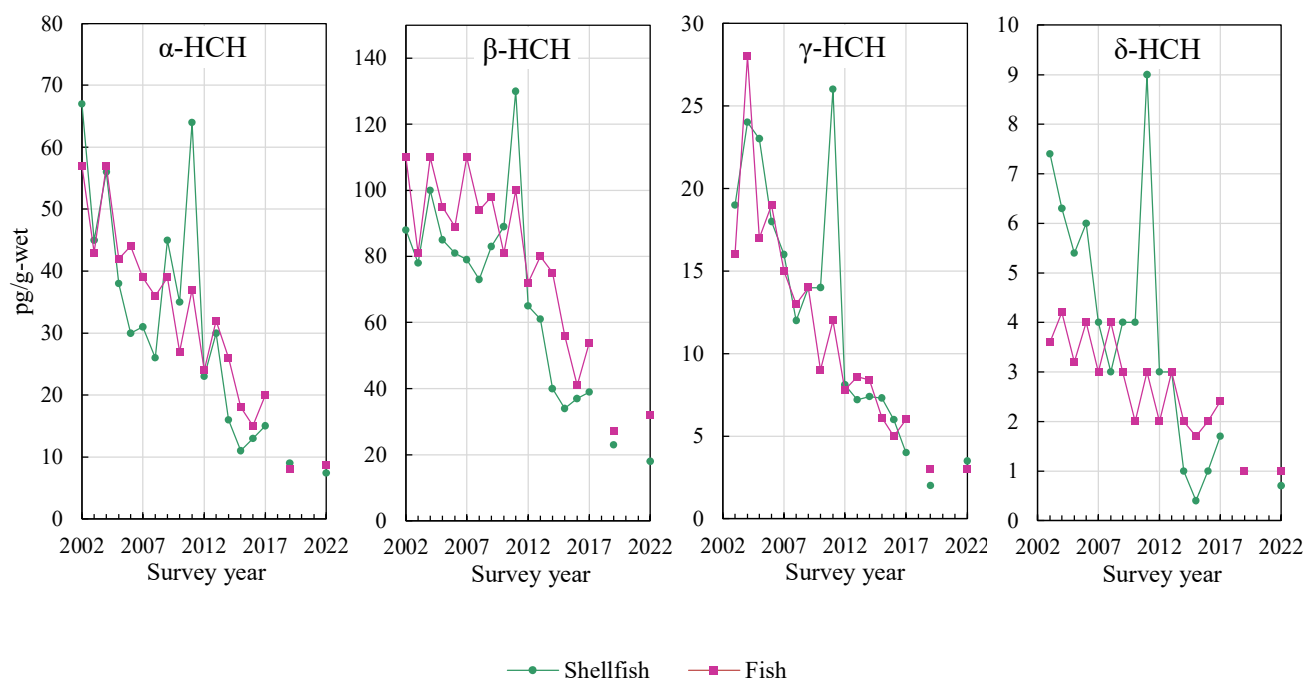


Figure 1: Temporal trends of HCH concentrations in shellfish and fish

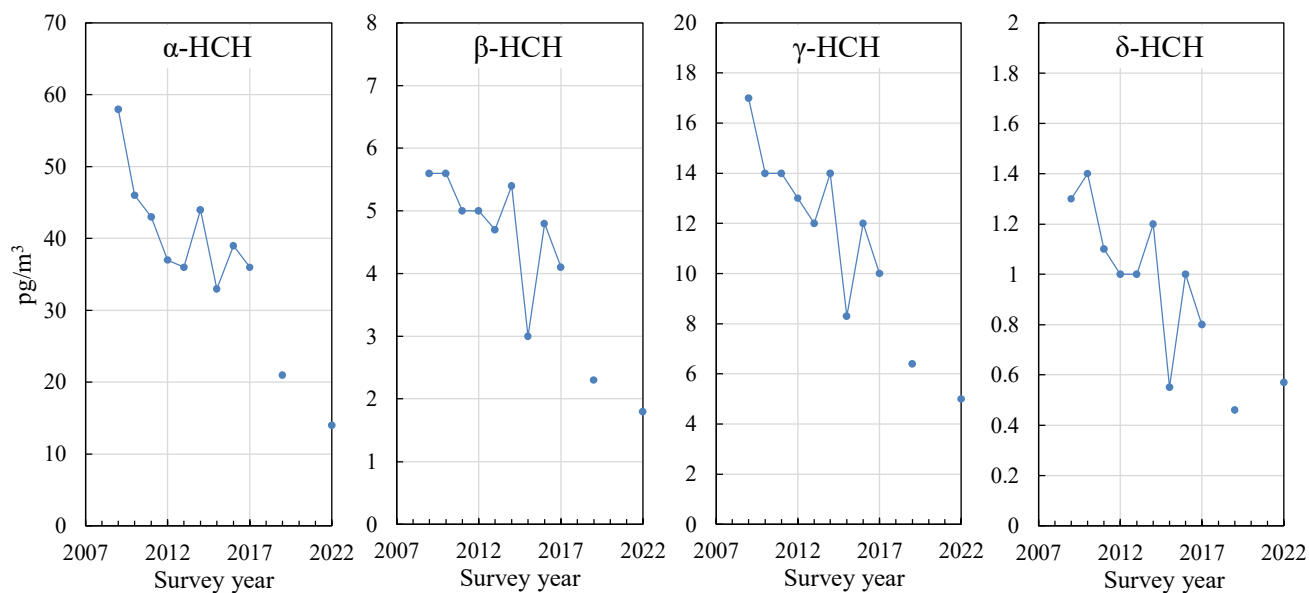


Figure 2: Temporal trends of HCH concentrations in air (warm season)

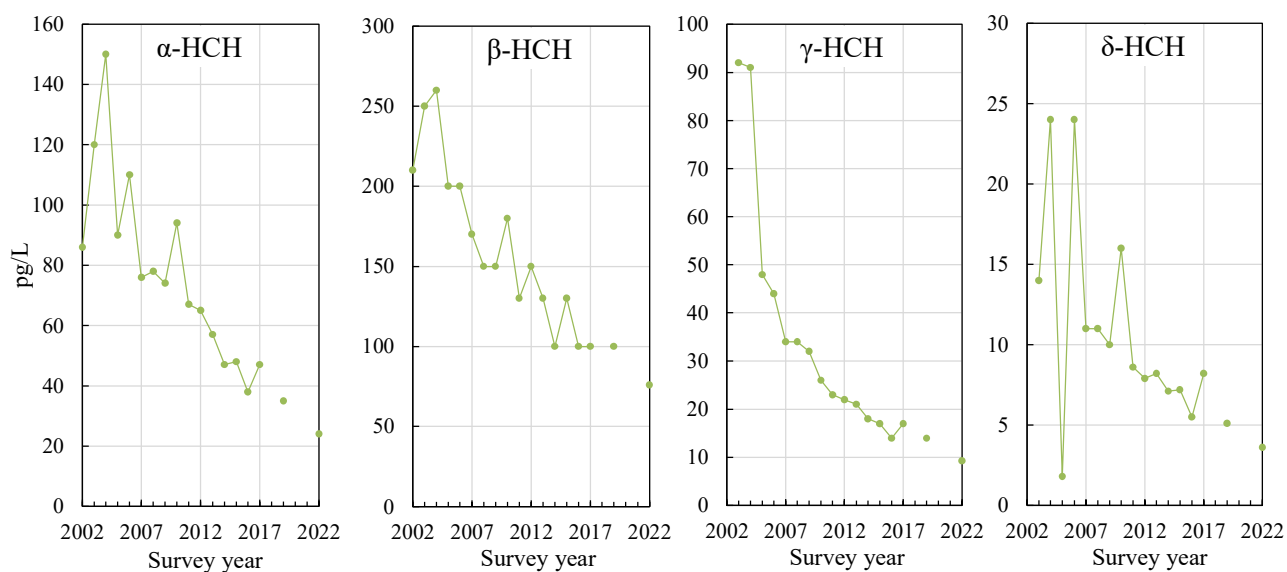


Figure 3: Temporal trends of HCH concentrations in water

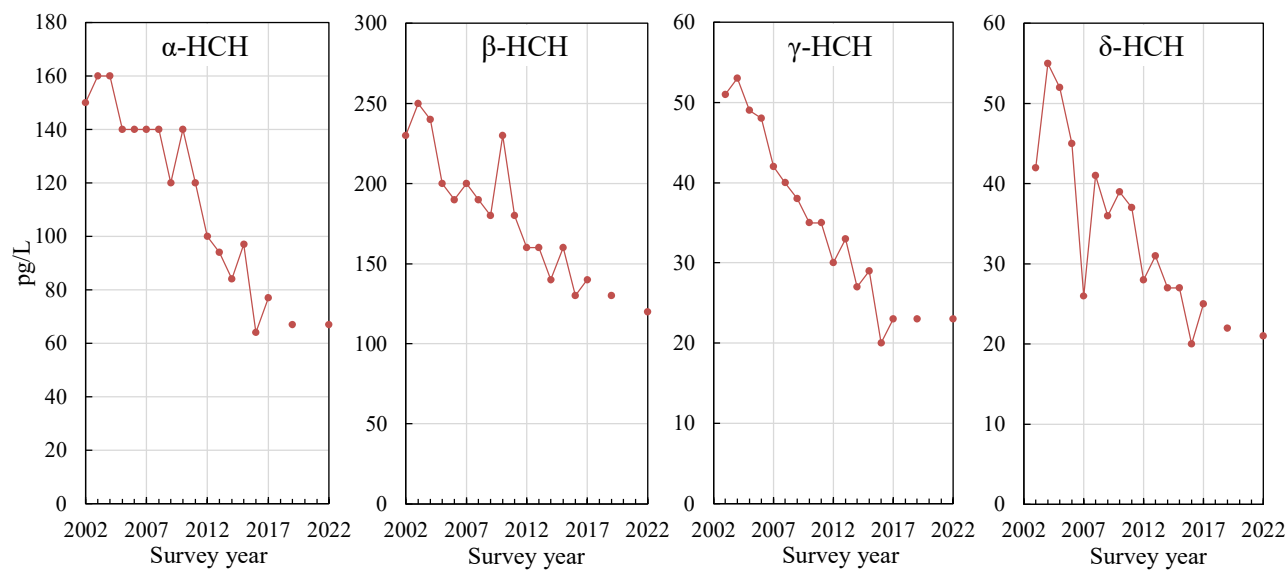


Figure 4: Temporal trends of HCH concentrations in sediment



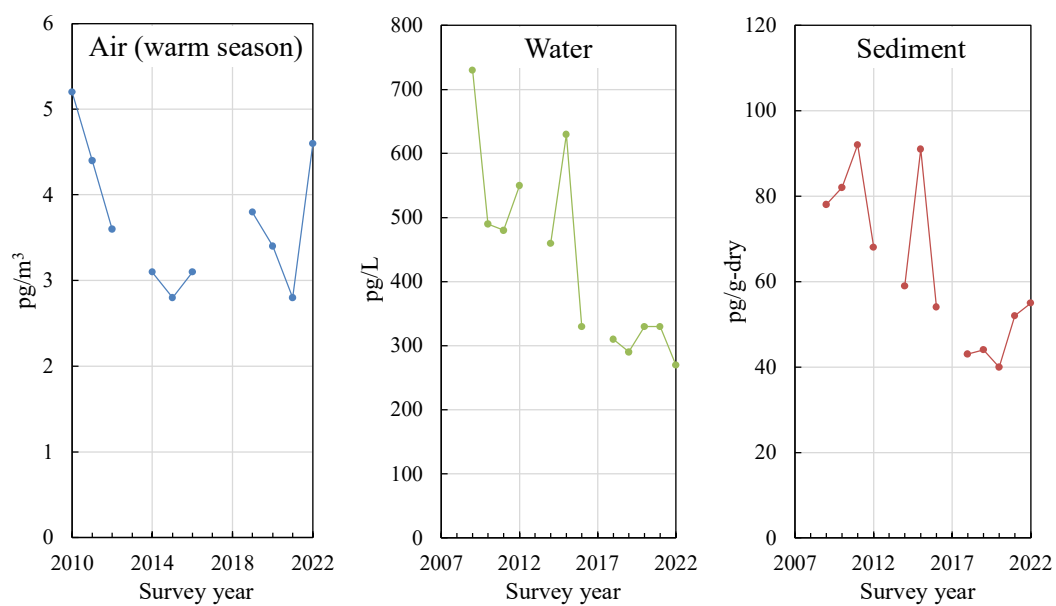


Figure 5: Temporal trends of PFOS concentrations in air (warm season), water, and sediment

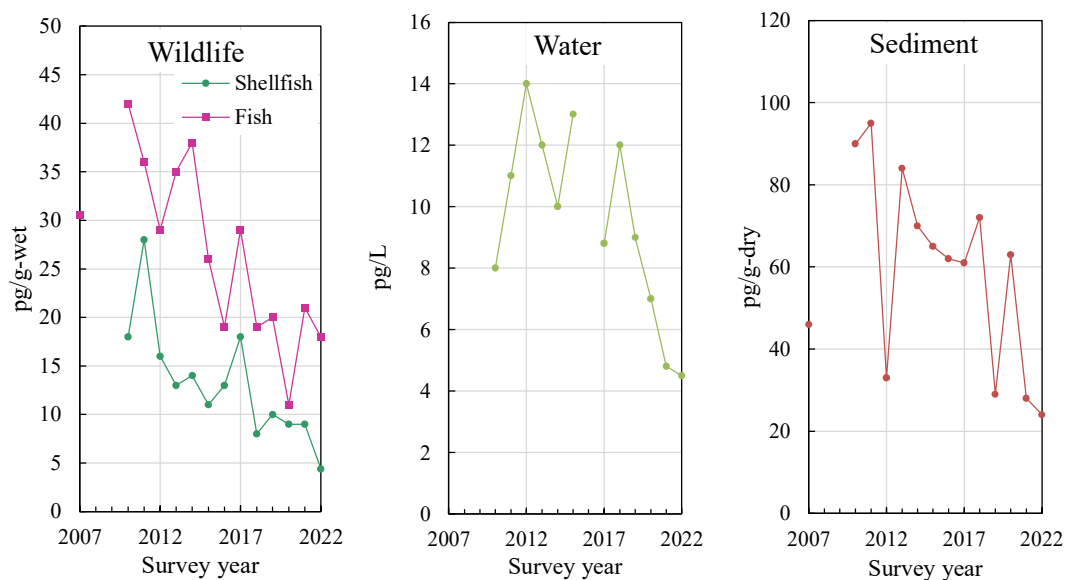


Figure 6: Temporal trends of PeCB in shellfish, fish, water, and sediment

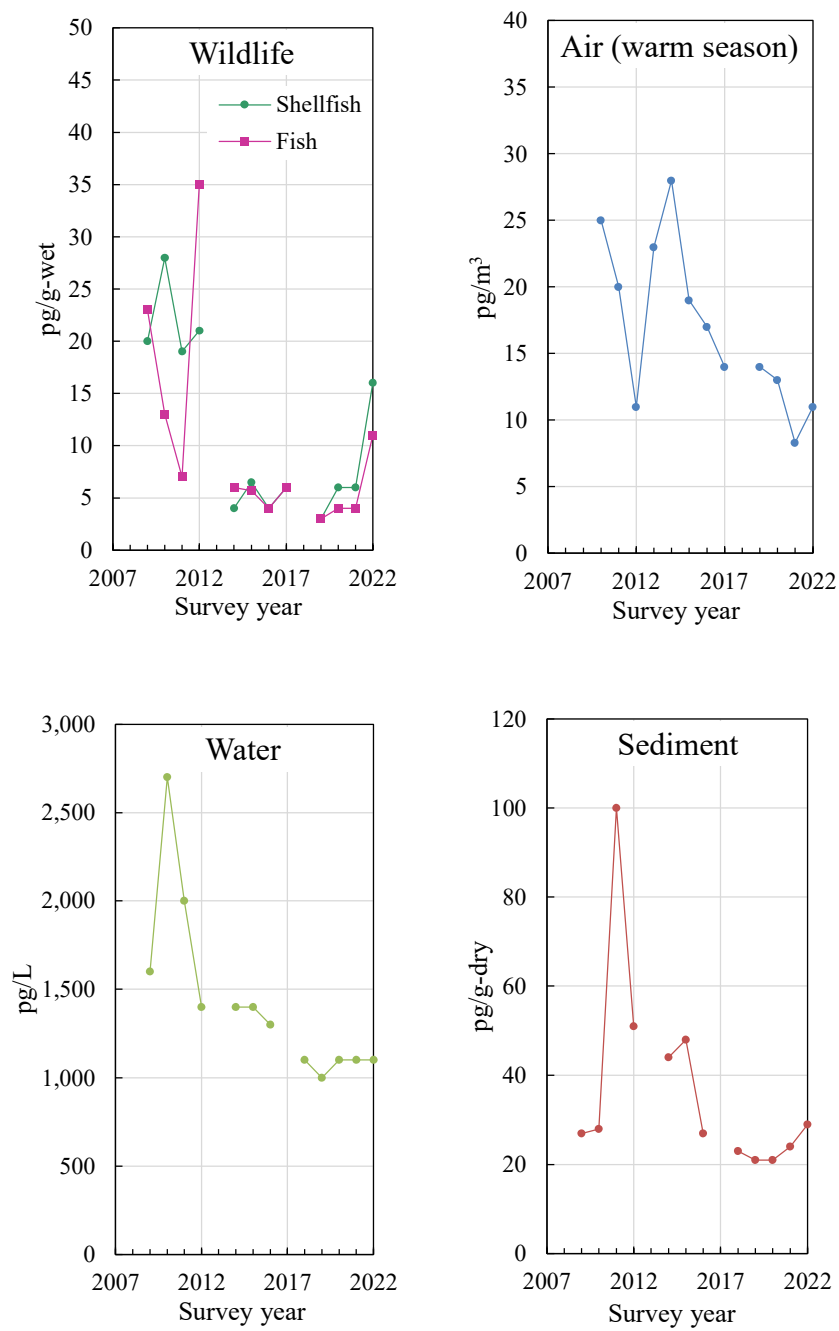


Figure 7: Temporal trends of PFOA in shellfish, fish, air (warm season), water, and sediment

2. Government Plan to Reduce Dioxins Levels Resulting from Business Activities in  
Japan  
(Modified in August 2012)

## Government Plan to Reduce Dioxins Levels Resulting from Business Activities in Japan

Pursuant to Paragraph 4 of Article 33 of the Law Concerning Special Measures against Dioxins (Law No.105 of 1999) as correspondingly applied Paragraph 5, the government publishes the Government Plan to Reduce Dioxins Levels Resulting from Business Activities in Japan, modified as follows according to Paragraph 1 of Article 33:

### **Section 1 Reduction targets relating to the estimated amount of dioxins emissions categorized by field of business activities in Japan**

In view of environmental improvements in recent years, reduction targets of the estimated amounts of dioxins emissions, categorized by fields of business activities in Japan, shall be as follows for the time being, on the assumption that continuous efforts will be made to reduce emissions to the extent possible, with the principle that the improved environment will not be exacerbated.

Also, the degree of the accomplishment of the reduction targets shall be evaluated every 5 years, together with the review of the action plan under Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (hereafter referred to as “Stockholm Convention”).

Field of business activities	Reduction targets (g-TEQ/year)	(Reference) Reduction targets in the previous plans (g-TEQ/year)		(Reference) Estimated amounts of dioxins emissions (g-TEQ/year)		
		Reduction targets (as of 2003)	Reduction targets (as of 2010)	1997	2003	2010
1 Fields of waste disposal	106	576-622	164-189	7,205-7,658	219-244	94-95
(1) Municipal waste incinerators	33	310	51	5000	71	33
(2) Industrial waste incinerators	35	200	50	1505	75	29
(3) Small-scale waste incinerators (subject to laws)	22	66-122	63-88	700-1,153	73-98	19
(4) Small-scale waste incinerators (exempt from laws)	16					13-14
2 Fields of industry	70	264	146	470	149	61
(1) Electric steel-making furnaces	31.1	130.3	80.3	229	80.3	30.1
(2) Sintering facilities for steel industry	15.2	93.2	35.7	135	35.7	10.9
(3) Facilities for recovering zinc (Roasting furnaces, Sintering furnaces, Blast furnaces, Melting furnaces and Drying furnaces)	3.2	13.8	5.5	47.4	5.5	2.3

(4) Facilities for manufacturing aluminum base alloy (Roasting furnaces, Melting furnaces and dry kilns)	10.9	11.8	14.3	31.0	17.4	8.7
(5) Other facilities	9.8	15	10.4	27.3	10.3	8.8
3 Others	0.2	3-5	4.4-7.7	1.2	0.6	0.2
Total	176	843-891	315-343	7,676-8,129	368-393	155-156

Note 1: Reduction targets represent annual amounts of dioxins emissions after measures to reduce dioxins in emission gas and effluent water have been taken.

Note 2: Ranges in the columns result from different estimation methods.

Note 3: The same reduction target was established for the small-scale waste incinerators subject to laws and those exempt from laws in the previous plans. For this plan, the different targets are established.

Note 4: In the fields of industry, the two different reduction targets were established in the previous plans for the facilities for recovering copper and the pulping process with bleaching. For this plan, they are integrated into “(5) Other facilities”, as only tiny amounts of emissions were detected.

Note 5: “3 Others” is sewage disposal facilities and waste disposal sites. While crematoria, cigarette smoke, and exhaust emissions from motor vehicles were included in “3 Others” in the previous plans, they are not covered in this plan (For this reason, their previous estimated amounts of emissions are not counted in).

Remark: Unit “g-TEQ/year” is used to represent annual emissions of dioxins in terms of the toxic equivalent quantity (TEQ), which sums up toxicities of dioxin congeners, in relation to the toxic equivalency factor (the factor representing the toxicity of a dioxin congener relative to the toxicity of 2,3,7,8-TeCDD, which is the most toxic among dioxins). “WHO-TEF (1998)” means the TEF published by WHO in 1998.

WHO- TEF (1998) is used as the toxic equivalence factor for the calculation of emissions from 1997 to 2003 and the reduction targets in the previous plans. For emissions in 2010 and the reduction targets in this plan, WHO- TEF (2006) is used to the extent possible.

## Section 2 Measures for businesses in order to achieve reduction targets

### 1. Compliance with emission standards, etc.

(1) Compliance with the emission standard for the emission gas and effluent standard for the effluent water etc.

Pursuant to Article 20 of the Law Concerning Special Measures against Dioxins (Law No.105 of 1999, hereinafter referred to as “the Dioxins Law”), businesses shall not release emission or effluent whose level of dioxins contained complies with emission standards, at the outlets of emission of a facility subject to emission standard and at the drainage outlets of a facility which is installed in a site subject to effluent standard.

Also, in cases that the total mass emission control standard is established pursuant to Article 10 of the Dioxins Law, businesses must comply with the standard.

### (2) Prevention of environmental pollution by dioxins

Pursuant to Article 4 of the Dioxins Law, businesses shall take the necessary measures for the prevention

of environmental pollution by dioxins resulting from their business activities including the prevention of accidents that may cause dioxins emissions. Businesses shall also cooperate any measures implemented by the national government or local public authorities with regard to the prevention, etc. of environmental pollution by dioxins.

The above-mentioned measures by the national government include the development and implementation of the Action Plan under Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (hereinafter referred as to “Stockholm Convention”) and the promotion of the use of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP).

### (3) Measures in case of accidents

As provided in Article 23 of the Dioxins Law, businesses shall take emergency measures immediately when a large amount of dioxins is emitted into air or public water areas.

### (4) Measurement on the status of pollution caused by dioxins

As provided in Article 28 of the Dioxins Law, businesses shall implement the measurement of the pollution status caused by dioxins, with regard to emissions from facilities subject to the emission standards and to effluents from facilities subject to the effluent standards. The results of such measurements shall be reported to prefectural governors.

### (5) Appointment of pollution control supervisors etc.

Pursuant to the provisions of Act on Pollution Prevention Organization in Specified Factories (Law No.107 of 1971), businesses shall appoint pollution control supervisors and pollution control managers for facilities emitting dioxins. Appointed persons shall conscientiously implement their duties including monitoring how those facilities emitting dioxins are being operated, etc.

## 2. Report dioxins releases etc. by businesses

Pursuant to the provisions of the Law Concerning Reporting etc. of Releases to the Environment of Specific Chemicals Substances and Promoting Improvements in Their Management (Law No.86 of 1999), businesses shall report dioxins releases etc. in the acknowledgement that dioxins are Type I designated chemical substances under Paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the same law and could cause serious health damages. In addition, businesses shall implement the management on the production, use, and other handling etc. of designated chemical substances including dioxins in accordance with the guidelines on measures regarding control of designated chemical substances etc. that businesses handling them should follow (guidelines for the management of chemical substances) stipulated in Article 3 of the same law, and shall also make efforts to reduce emissions by improving a system, preparing a guideline, inspecting and improving facilities etc., and also foster the general public’s awareness of the actual status of the management of these chemicals and others.

### 3. Promotion of reducing, reuse and recycling of waste, etc. that could form dioxins

Pursuant to Article 11 of the Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society (Law No.110 of 2000, hereinafter referred as to “Recycling Law”), businesses shall minimize waste etc. that could release dioxins (refer to “waste etc.” defined in Article 2, Paragraph 2 of the Recycling Law. The same shall apply hereinafter), by encouraging consideration in the process of development, manufacture, and distribution, self-restraint relating to the manufacture and sale of throwaway products and over-packaging, efforts to lengthen the life of products, etc. At the same time, businesses shall take necessary measures to promote the reuse or recycling of recyclable resources and shall cooperate with the national government or local public authorities in carrying out their policies and measures for establishing a sound material-cycle society.

In addition, pursuant to the provisions of the Act on Waste Management and Public Cleansing (Act No.137 of 1970, hereafter referred to as “Waste Management Act”), businesses shall take necessary measures for minimizing waste such as formulating a plan to deal with business establishments generating a large amount of dioxins emissions, etc. Businesses shall also take measures in compliance with the Law for Promotion of Effective Use of Resources (Law No.48 of 1991), the Law for Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging (Law No.112 of 1998), the Specified Household Instruments Recycling Law (Law No.97 of 1998), the Law Concerning the Recycling of Construction Materials (Law No.104 of 2000), the Law for Promoting the Recycling of Recyclable Food Resources, etc. (Law No.116 of 2000), the Law Concerning the Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and other Entities (Law No.100 of 2000), the Law Concerning the Recycling etc. of End-of-Life Motor Vehicles (Law No.78 of 2002), etc. and shall further promote minimizing waste as well as the cyclical use of recyclable resources through their voluntary and active endeavors.

## **Section 3 Measures to be taken by the national government and local public authorities to promote the recycling and reuse of resources, and to reduce waste which could form dioxins**

### 1. Promotion of measures for waste reduction

#### (1) Promotion of measures in compliance with the Recycling Law

Pursuant to Article 9 of the Recycling Law, the national government shall formulate the Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society pursuant to Article 15 of the Recycling Law. Based on the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) Initiative, adopted at a Ministerial Conference in June 2004, the national government shall further promote the reduction etc. of wastes.

Local public authorities, pursuant to Article 10 of the Recycling Law, shall not only implement necessary measures to ensure appropriate recycling and disposal of recyclable resources, but also formulate and implement the policies in accordance with the natural and social conditions of the local public authorities’ jurisdiction, based on the proper role-sharing with the national government for establishing the sound material-cycle society.

## (2) Promotion of measures in compliance with the Waste Management Act and other laws

Pursuant to the Basic Policy for comprehensive and systematic promotion of appropriate measures, including reduction of wastes (May 2001, Ministry of the Environment Notification No.34, hereinafter referred as to “Basic Policy”), in compliance with the provision of Article 5, 2. (1) of the Waste Management Act, the plan for improvement of waste disposal facilities established under the Basic Policy, the prefectural waste management program, and the municipal waste disposal program prescribing emission limitation measures for domestic wastes, the national government and local public authorities take necessary measures to minimize waste.

In addition, by formulating a basic policy and taking necessary steps in compliance with the Law for Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources, the Law for Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging, the Specified Household Instruments Recycling Law, the Law Concerning the Recycling of Construction Materials, the Law for Promoting the Recycling of Recyclable Food Resources, etc., the Law Concerning the Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and other Entities, the Law Concerning the Recycling etc. of End-of-Life Motor Vehicles, the national government and local public authorities shall promote waste reduction and the cyclical use of recyclable resources.

## (3) Assistance to equipment investment required for waste reduction

In order to reduce wastes, the national government shall provide financial and technological support to any person who has installed an improved facility for waste reduction or recycling.

## 2. Achievement of waste reduction targets

With the aim to achieve “waste reduction targets” established in accordance with the “Basic Guidelines of Japan for the Promotion of Measures against Dioxins (decided in March, 1999, at the ministerial conference on dioxins)”, the government shall promote unified and systematic waste reduction measures.

## 3. Others

### (1) Reduction and proper disposal of wastes from public facilities

The national government and local public authorities shall promote the reduction and proper disposal of wastes etc. from public facilities under the Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society, the plan on measures for the national government to implement in order to restrict green house gas emissions etc. (National Government Action Plan) the national government formulates in accordance with Article 20, 2. (1) of the Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures (Law No.117 of 1998), and the plan on measures to restrict green house gas emission etc. (Local Government Action Plan) the prefectures and municipalities formulate in accordance with Article 20, 3. (1) of the act.



## (2) Enhancement of environmental education/learning

Under the Recycling Law, the national government shall promote a wide range of integrated environmental education/learning, designed for cutting back on the amount of waste etc., including promotion of reduction, reuse and recycling of wastes etc. For this end, exchanges of personnel and information shall be promoted between the public sector and the private sector. The national government shall enhance the supply and diffusion of information, personnel training, and educational programs etc., in order to ensure that environmental education/learning including that designed to reduce waste etc. discharges within the family, at schools, in workplaces, in local communities, and any other places. etc. under the Law for Enhancing Motivation on Environmental Conservation and Promoting Environmental Education (Law No.130 of 2003). The local public authorities shall endeavor to plan and implement measures regarding the promotion of environmental education.

## **Section 4 Other matters necessary to reduce dioxins resulting from business activities in Japan**

### 1. Appropriate and smooth implementation of the Stockholm Convention

In order to reduce the total emissions of dioxins under the provisions of Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention, the national government shall take necessary measures, including the establishment and implementation of the Action Plan and the promotion of use of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP).

### 2. Promotion of measures for sources of dioxins

#### (1) Promotion of measures against waste

The national government and local public authorities shall enhance the controls on illegal waste disposal through the enforcement of more rigorous monitoring measures under the Waste Management Act, the Air Pollution Control Law (Law No.97 of 1968), and the Dioxins Law.

In accordance with the Dioxins Law, the national government and local public authorities shall implement measures against soil pollution and also promote to implement or plan measures against sediment contamination, including removal of sediments.

The national government shall implement financial and technical assistance to local public authorities in installation of waste incinerators, and promote arrangement in such incinerators across wider areas. Furthermore, with respect to industrial waste incinerators, the national government shall improve model facilities by providing financial assistance for facilities improvement at waste disposal centers, and make further efforts to improve the sophistication of facilities by using financing mechanism of government-affiliated financial institutions.

Also, financial support is provided to the relevant local public authorities to appropriately promote the dismantling of general waste incinerators at the time of decommission, and encourage the effective reuse of

vacant lots.

Prefectures shall provide advice etc. to municipalities to implement promptly a wide-area waste disposal facilities project formulated to enable the reduction of dioxins emissions associated with waste disposal.

## (2) Promotion of measures against unregulated sources etc.

Of the sources specified in Annex C of the Stockholm Convention, the national government shall, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 (d) of the Stockholm Convention, promote the use of BAT and BEP to new sources identified in the Action Plan, bearing in mind the guidelines on Best Available Techniques (BAT) and the guidance on Best Environmental Practices (BEP), (hereafter called “BAT and BEP guidelines” \*) etc. and take appropriate measures under the law for ensuring the use of BAT.

Of the sources of dioxins not subject to control by the Dioxins Law and sources specified in Annex C of the Stockholm Convention, the national government and local public authorities shall systematically monitor the status of existing sources and new sources that are not specified in the Action Plan, and promote release reduction measures, taking into consideration the latest knowledge of emissions and the BAT and BEP guidelines.

Note\*: Refers to the BAT and BEP guidelines adopted at the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its third session.

## (3) Prohibition of open burning without using a proper incinerator

As provided in the Waste Management Act and the Offensive Odor Control Law (Law No.91 of 1971), open burning of waste, not using a proper incinerator, is prohibited.

## 3. Report of dioxins emissions etc.

### (1) Publication of emission inventory of dioxins, etc.

The national government shall compile and publish an emission inventory of dioxins in waste incinerators etc. by sources and by media. In compiling the emissions inventory, emissions from main generation sources of dioxins are estimated annually, while estimations are carried out for other generation sources every few years.

Local public authorities shall publish to the public the results of measurement conducted by businesses under Article 28 of the Dioxins Law.

### (2) Implementation of monitoring and surveys on the actual status of dioxins emissions and implementation of measures based on the results

The government shall annually and continuously monitor the status of dioxins in the environment, human bodies, waste incinerators and industries in a systematic manner, and publish the results to the public in a way easy to understand.

Local public authorities shall implement surveys, including regular observation, in accordance with the provisions of the Dioxins Law. Based on the results of such surveys, the national government and local public authorities shall take appropriate measures as necessary under the Dioxins Law etc.

### (3) Promotion of effective and efficient measurement and QA/QC

In order to promote effective and efficient measurement and monitoring, the national government shall promote the diffusion of such methods to introduce quick and inexpensive simplified analytical methods to appropriate fields under appropriate circumstances in accordance with their special characteristics.

The government shall promote QA/QC in dioxins measurement by providing standard environmental specimens, administering the Measurement Licensor Approval Program (MLAP), and spreading the Guidelines on QA/QC for the Environmental Measurement of Dioxins (Environmental Agency, November 2000) and the Guidelines on Securing the Reliability of the Environmental Measurements of Dioxins Commissioned Outside (Ministry of the Environment, March 2001).

The national government shall provide systematic training to technical experts working in official testing organizations of local public authorities etc. to help them enhance their understanding of analytical techniques and their skills for using the technologies.

## 4. Promotion of research and investigations and technological development activities regarding dioxins

The national government shall promote the analysis of the dioxins generation and emission mechanism, research on effects on organisms and behavior of dioxins in the environment, and development of technologies for appropriate incineration, detoxification, and decomposition of wastes, and also promote the introduction and diffusion of achievements of such technologies to push forward their use under appropriate circumstances.

## 5. Publication of accurate information and enhancement of disclosure to the general public

### (1) Enhancement of publication and disclosure of information

The national government shall disclose and publish to the public accurate information concerning the impacts of dioxins on the human health and the environment, the results of research and development and international trends, including the relevant statistical data and their actual implications, in a prompt and easily understandable manner.

### (2) Systematic activities designed to enhance public awareness

In order to effectively reduce wastes which result in emitting dioxins, it is essential for the public to recognize that people themselves generate wastes and impose burden on the environment and to reinforce their effort to reduce the environmental burden, including reducing wastes.

To ensure people's better understanding and their more cooperation in addressing issues of dioxins, the

national government shall intensify its unified and systematic public awareness activities such as preparing an inter-ministerial pamphlet, issuing an annual report, which will enlighten the general public on the current situation and future agendas in national efforts toward the goal of building a recycling and reuse-oriented society.

The national government shall also make best efforts to provide accurate information on dioxins through the National Consumer Affairs Center, local consumption centers, its periodicals, the internet, and mass media etc. It shall also take every opportunity to encourage the public to review their senses of value and lifestyles and shift them to generate and discharge less waste.

# [Reference] Dioxins emissions inventory

Source of dioxins emissions	Total amount of dioxins emission (g-TEQ/year)													
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Facilities subject to reduction targets	7676~ 8129	3691~ 4144	2870~ 3201	2390~ 2521	1895~ 2007	937~ 960	368~ 393	340~ 362	323~ 347	286~ 311	281~ 299	212~ 217	153~ 154	155~ 156
“Water”	13	12	12	9	4	3	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	2
1 Fields of waste disposal	7205~ 7658	3355~ 3808	2562~ 2839	2121~ 2252	1689~ 1801	748~ 771	219~ 244	215~ 237	213~ 237	193~ 218	181~ 199	132~ 137	102~ 103	94~ 95
“Water”	5	5	5	3	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	1
Municipal waste incinerators	5000	1550	1350	1019	812	370	71	64	62	54	52	42	36	33
Industrial waste incinerators	1505	1105	695	558	535	266	75	70	73	63	60	42	34	29
Small-scale waste incinerators (subject to laws)	-	-	-	326	158	79	37	38	31	25	24	30	19	19
Small-scale waste incinerators (exempt from laws)	700~ 1153	700~ 1153	517~ 848	218~ 349	184~ 296	33~ 56	35~ 60	43~ 64	47~ 70	50~ 76	45~ 63	18~ 23	13~ 14	13~ 14
2 Fields of industry	470	335	306	268	205	189	149	125	110	93	100	80	50	61
“Water”	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.0	1.8	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.6
Electric steel-making furnaces	229	140	142	131	95.3	94.8	80.3	64.0	49.6	39.5	50.2	33.0	20.1	30.1
Sintering facilities for steel industry	135	114	101	69.8	65.0	51.1	35.7	30.4	29.3	21.2	20.5	22.5	9.1	10.9
Facilities for recovering zinc	47.4	25.4	21.8	26.5	9.2	14.7	5.5	8.1	4.1	8.2	1.8	3.1	2.1	2.3
Facilities for manufacturing aluminum base alloy	31.0	28.8	23.1	22.2	19.7	16.3	17.4	13.0	15.2	12.9	15.6	11.3	11.1	8.7
Other facilities	27.3	26.2	18.6	18.6	16.2	11.6	10.3	9.7	11.4	10.7	11.7	9.9	7.7	8.8
3 Others	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
“Water”	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Sewage disposal facilities	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Waste disposal sites	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Facilities exempt from reduction targets	3.6~ 6.2	3.7~ 6.4	3.7~ 6.5	3.7~ 6.4	3.7~ 6.5	3.8~ 6.7	3.8~ 6.8	3.8~ 6.8	3.7~ 6.7	3.8~ 6.8	3.9~ 7.0	3.4~ 6.1	2.3~ 3.9	2.3~ 4.1
Crematoria	2.1~ 4.6	2.2~ 4.8	2.2~ 4.9	2.2~ 4.8	2.2~ 4.9	2.3~ 5.1	2.3~ 5.1	2.4~ 5.3	2.4~ 5.3	2.5~ 5.4	2.6~ 5.7	2.2~ 4.9	1.2~ 2.8	1.2~ 3.0
Cigarette smoke	0.1~ 0.2	0.1~ 0.2	0.1~ 0.2	0.1~ 0.2	0.1~ 0.2	0.1~ 0.2	0.1~ 0.2	0.1~ 0.2	0.1~ 0.2	0.1~ 0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Exhaust emissions from motor vehicles	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0
Total	7680~ 8135	3695~ 4151	2874~ 3208	2394~ 2527	1899~ 2013	941~ 967	372~ 400	344~ 369	327~ 354	289~ 317	285~ 306	215~ 223	155~ 157	158~ 160
“Water”	13	12	12	9	4	3	2	2	2	2	3	1s	1	2

Note 1: WHO- TEF (1998) is used as the toxic equivalence factor for the calculation of emissions from 1997 to 2007. For emissions from 2008 to 2010, WHO- TEF (2006) is used to the extent possible.

Note 2: “Water” means amount released into water as part of releases.

Note 3: 0 (Zero) in the table is the result of rounding to the nearest whole number with amounts of dioxins emissions expressed in g-TEQ.

Note 4: It is considered that other sources of dioxins emissions that are not subject to this plan include “forest fire” “open burning”. The amount of emissions to the air in FY2009 is estimated to be 0.06 g-TEQ/year. Also, “open burning” is prohibited in principle in Japan.