

【 Reference 5 】

The Offensive Odor Control Law in Japan
(brochure)

The Offensive Odor Control Law in Japan



A horizontal timeline consisting of a series of vertical bars of varying heights, representing the years from 1972 to 2003. The bars are white and set against a background of light and dark orange. Three specific years are highlighted with larger text below the bars: 1972, 1995, and 2003.

1972

1995

2003

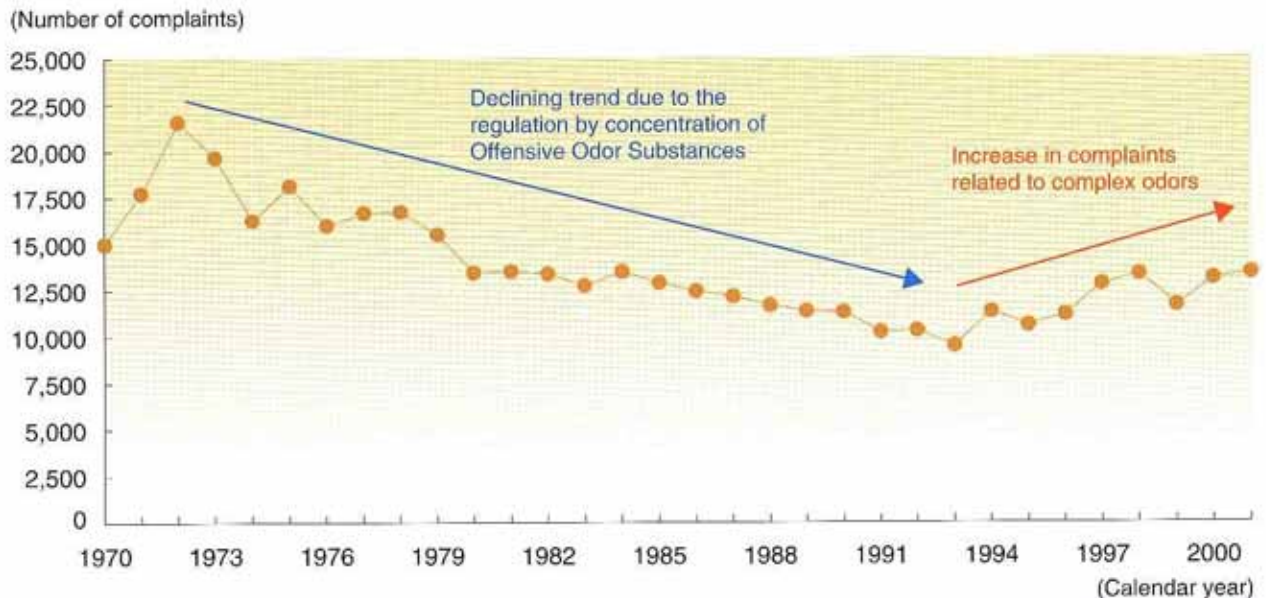
Office of Odor, Noise and Vibration
Environmental Management Bureau
Ministry of the Environment
Government of Japan



History of Offensive Odor Control in Japan

With the progress of industrial development and urbanization, complaints about environment pollution such as air pollution, noise and offensive odors increased sharply in the 1970s in Japan. To take measures against offensive odors, the "Offensive Odor Control Law" was enacted in 1972 and regulates offensive odors emitted from business activities. It could be progressive as few countries have laws applying only to offensive odors.

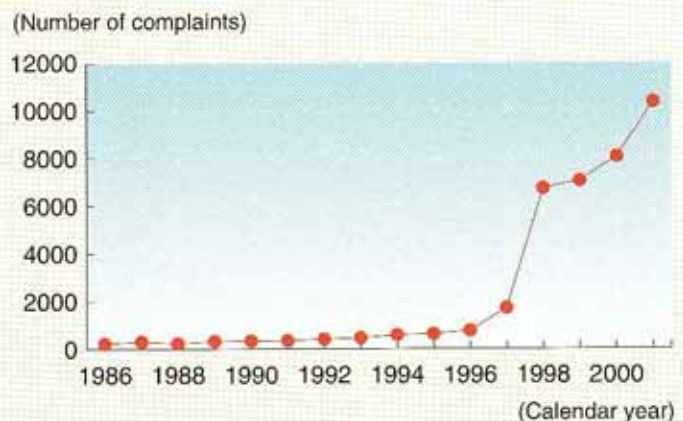
Since then, various efforts toward improvement under this law resulted in a decreasing number of complaints. However, the number increased little by little after 1990. One of the causes of this increase is that people have become sensitized to odors generated in daily life. Complaints about livestock farming and manufacturing plants have been decreasing, while those about service industries and private households have been increasing.



Annual changes of complaints about offensive odors (except those related to outdoor incineration)

Outdoor incineration

During the past several years, complaints about offensive odors caused by outdoor incineration have been sharply increasing. This is probably because people are more nervous about outdoor incineration due to increasing anxiety for dioxin.



Recent increase in complaints about outdoor incineration



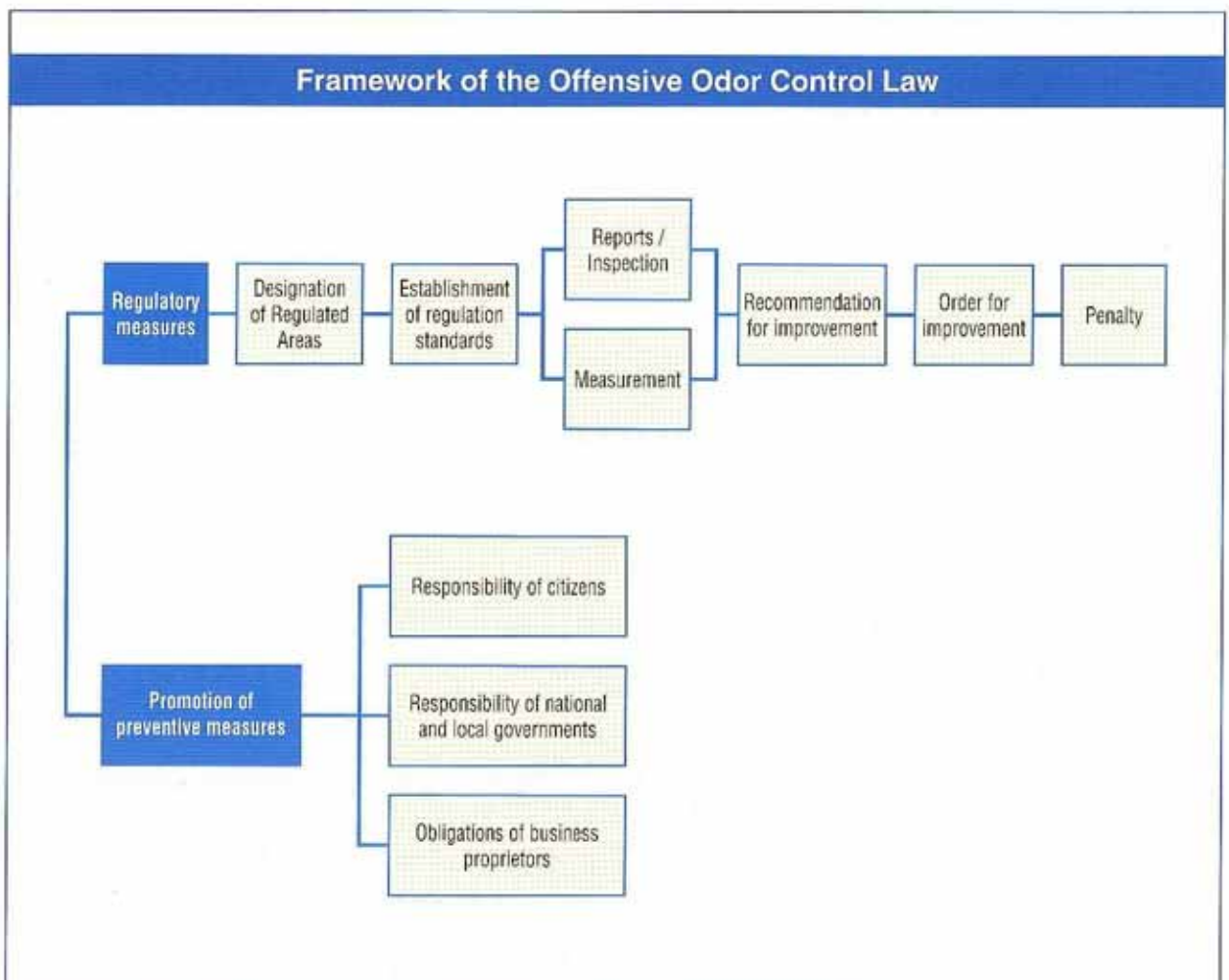
Legal Framework of the Offensive Odor Control Law

Aim of the Offensive Odor Control Law

Preservation of the living environment and people's health by reducing offensive odors to a degree that most people do not feel uncomfortable in their daily lives.

To achieve its aim, the Offensive Odor Control Law covers the following issues:

- Regulatory measures against offensive odors emitted from business activities
- Promotion of preventive measures against offensive odors in daily life





Regulatory Measures against Offensive Odors

Offensive odors emitted from business activities are regulated in a series of regulatory schemes of implementation and penalty.

Designation of Regulated Areas

■ Regulated Areas

Within regulated areas, emissions of offensive odors from business activities are regulated. Areas are designated by local governments based on geographical and demographical conditions for preserving the living environment of residents. Typical areas to be regulated are densely populated ones and the suburbs with schools and hospitals. As of CY 2001, 1792 local governments nationwide have such regulated areas (55.2% of the total).



Why are only regulated areas subject to regulation ?

The damage due to offensive odors is a sensory issue that causes discomfort and aversion rather than injury to health. Therefore, in areas where no one feels discomfort, there is no need to regulate the emission of offensive odors, either.

■ Application

All kinds of factories and workshops within regulated areas are regulated by the law. This applies regardless of type, scale or management organization of business.

Establishment of Regulation Standards

■ Regulation System

The law stipulates alternative regulation systems:

- I Concentration of Offensive Odor Substances
- II Odor Index

Local governments can choose either of them and establish regulation standards according to geographical and demographical conditions.