

December 18, 2008

The Ministry of the Environment has compiled information about the enforcement status of the number of notifications (made by smoke and soot-emitting facilities, specified dust discharging work, etc.) and the state of regulation duties which are regulated by the Air Pollution Control Law (hereinafter referred to as “the Law”) conducted by prefectures and ordinance-designated cities in FY 2007.

1. The enforcement status of the number of notifications

- (1) The number of smoke and soot-emitting facilities was 218,388 as of the end of FY 2007 (with 218,514 facilities at the end of FY 2006). Among these, facilities equipped with boilers (140,865 facilities, 64.5%), diesel engines (32,851 facilities, 15.0%) and gas-turbines (8,458 facilities 3.9%) were prominent.
- (2) The number of volatile organic compounds exhaust facilities was 3,776 as of the end of FY 2007 (with 3,741 facilities at the end of FY 2006). Among these, drying facilities for adhesives related to the manufactures of adhesive tapes and wrapping materials (905 facilities, 24.0%), painting facilities (785 facilities, 20.8%) and drying facilities for painting (529 facilities, 14.0%) were prominent.
- (3) The specified dust discharging facilities (manufacturers of asbestos and asbestos fabrication facilities. Six facilities (two factories) at the end of FY 2006) were completely abolished as of the end of FY 2007.
- (4) The number of specified dust discharging work (this includes demolition of buildings containing spray-applied asbestos) was 14,735 cases in FY 2007 (with 21,007 facilities at the end of FY 2006).

2. The enforcement status of regulation duties

- (1) The number of on-site inspections by prefectures and ordinance-designated cities in FY 2007 was 28,634 cases and 29,971 cases in FY 2006. Six cases were subject to the administrative offence accusation of the Law and 714 cases were subject to administrative guidance, including recommendation.
- (2) In FY 2007, improper cases, including the violation of emission standards by paper factories, were revealed in succession. Therefore prefectures and ordinance-designated cities conducted on-site inspections of factories over a certain size (1,859 facilities in 271 places) to let the Law to be enforced appropriately and confirmed their compliance status of emission standards and recording state of measurement data.

As a result, proper management was enforced in most facilities, although 12 cases were subject to administrative guidance (7 cases were related to the observance of the standard value, 5 cases were related to enforcement of the self-measurement).