

Environmental Information System

Establishing a system to assess and comprehensively track substances of concern in raw materials and parts

Toyota Industries uses a large variety of raw materials and parts in order to manufacture its diverse lineup of products. In FY 2003, the company established a new environmental information system that plays a key role in the development of environmentally friendly products. The database system is capable of comprehensively managing environmental information relating to the company's products, including tracking the use of substances of concern in its products. In addition to ensuring regulatory compliance by the company, the system can be used to quickly submit data, regarding the existence of substances of concern in the company's products and parts, at the request of customers. In the future, Toyota Industries will expand the system to cover a wide range of other applications such as determining recycling rates, conducting LCAs, and promoting green procurement.

Overview

Toyota Industries' environmental information system comprehensively tracks substances of concern used in materials and parts handled by the company's main divisions.

The system helps to ensure that each product complies with the relevant environmental regulations, while also enabling the company to reduce the use of substances of concern in its products by establishing targets and monitoring the process to meet targets. Other advantages of the system include the ability to rapidly retrieve accurate data for submission to the company's customers and other third parties.

The system also contributes to better operating efficiency within the company by allowing data to be shared throughout the company, rather than allowing the data to be managed by individual divisions.

Future Applications

Toyota Industries intends to expand the system's capabilities in the future, such as by adding the ability to track environmental impact data—for example, CO₂ emissions generated during manufacturing and disposal—and enabling the system to track recyclability data. These enhancements will allow the company to accurately and efficiently calculate recycling rates and conduct an LCA for each of its products. The company's overall goal is to create a system that comprehensively tracks all environmental information pertaining to every aspect of product development.

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