

Sony Green Partner Activities

Developments in the Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval Program



Issued: February 1, 2003

Revised: August 1, 2005

Procurement Center, Sony Corporation

1 . Introduction

With the realization that conservation of the global environment is one of the most important challenges we face in the 21st century, as a good corporate citizen, Sony has been active in making contributions under its Environmental Vision philosophy. This philosophy aims at realizing a sustainable society that will protect the dreams of future generations.

Sony provides its customers with products that have been designed and produced to minimize environmental impact, based on Sony's environmental policy, which encompasses both global standards as well as the laws of each country. In making products in this way at Sony, a vital requirement is the use of parts, devices and raw materials that are *considerate* to the environment. Needless to say, it is indispensable to have the cooperation of our suppliers to achieve this.

At Sony we call our suppliers who are willing to work with us in making products that are sympathetic to environmental conservation Green Partners. With our Green Partners Orientation in July 2001 as the starting point, we simultaneously requested our suppliers to make Green Partner activities and systems while we checked and verified that each part, device and raw material does not stress the environment. In the process of promoting these Sony Green Partner Activities, we have come to the conclusion that it is vital that Sony and its suppliers collaborate in environmental management and tackle it upstream of production.

In this brochure we would like to introduce the history of Sony Green Partner Activities that have been implemented so far, as well as provide an overview of the measures that Sony asks of its suppliers who wish to become Green Partners.

We hope you can use this brochure as a reference in understanding our commitment to global conservation of the environment through our procurement processes at Sony, as well as our commitment to active environmental management.

For information about our latest operations, please refer to ["Management Regulations for the Environment-related Substances to be Controlled which are included in Parts and Materials \(SS-00259 \(for general use\)\)."](#)

2. Sony Green Partner Activities

(1) Sony Green Partner Activities for the Year 2001

Sony Green Partner Activities started with the Sony Green Partner Orientation in July 2001. Initially, in the interest of establishing an environmental management system the entire breadth of the Sony product supply chain, Sony asked each of our suppliers to review and strengthen its environmental management.

Speaking of environmental management, ISO 14001 is the certification system that represents this and it is very meaningful that our suppliers obtain the ISO 14001 certification. However, we are also aware that obtaining the certification requires an enormous investment in time and resources and it becomes a considerable burden to the suppliers. Consequently, Sony has established the "Sony Green Partner Standards," in compliance with ISO14001, and encouraged each of our suppliers to review and strengthen their company's environmental management based on this standard.

In doing this, we asked each of our suppliers to submit an Environmental Activity Report so they could objectively record the environmental management activities of their company.

This Environment Activity Report does not need to be submitted as this was incorporated from the year 2002 in the Sony Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval Program, described later in this brochure.

(2) Sony Green Partner Activities since 2002

Although Sony Green Partner Standards were established in 2001 to facilitate environmental management activities, it was not necessarily clear what the environment-related substances to be controlled whose use must be banned immediately or reduced were, and how the latter were to be used thereafter.

With the internal goal at Sony of rolling out throughout the company methods for dealing with environment-related substances to be controlled in the parts, devices and raw materials procured by Sony and simultaneously obtaining suppliers' strict compliance of same, we established Sony technical standards SS-00259 "Management Regulations for the Environment-related Substances to be Controlled which are included in Parts and Materials" (1st version: implemented July 1, 2002) and made it available to our suppliers. This document, SS-00259, clearly describes the substances that must be banned immediately (level 1), substances to be banned within a fixed time frame (level 2), substances to be reduced (level 3) and their corresponding management items. Observing SS-00259 strictly can mean, in other words, following the proper measures with respect to the laws, regulations and the environment.

The basis of Green Partner Activities after 2002 is for the suppliers to comply with this SS-00259. Each kind of document that is submitted, such as Upstream Management, or on the operations side, Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval Program and Certificate of Non-Use of Environment-Related Substances to be Controlled, is a concrete means of strictly observing SS-00259. These documents are introduced below.

(a) Upstream Management

In order to produce environmentally friendly products, it is fundamental to control the whole process, from raw materials to product shipment. By using *clean* raw materials in *clean* manufacturing processes, we can make *clean* products for the first time. In other words, it is important that environmental management does not input, use, or output substances that are hard on the environment.

Going back to the raw materials stage and taking control of each process is called Upstream Management, and we at Sony think this Upstream Management is an indispensable tool of environmental management. Sony has made it a goal of its environmental management to build a system of Upstream Management incorporating both Sony and our suppliers; our goal will be achieved only when it results in the products made in the system being "clean".

Sony has set up the Sony Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval Program to certify suppliers who have established an Upstream Management system; from April 2003, Sony only procures from suppliers who have been approved as Green Partners.

(b) Sony Green Partner Environment Quality Approval Program

Green Partner, as it was mentioned before, refers to suppliers who have established an Upstream Management system. In order for suppliers to construct an Upstream Management system, it is necessary that they first create a management system. To prove that the management system has been established, we ask our suppliers to provide guarantees that the products manufactured under the management system are clean products.

As a next step, a Sony auditor will conduct an environmental quality audit. The purpose of this audit is to objectively evaluate the Upstream Management system created by the supplier. The entire plant will be subject to the audit and it will pass the audit if it achieves a score of a certain number of points or more.

We will ask suppliers all of whose plants have passed the audit to submit a Sony Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval Agreement with the aim of continuously maintaining and improving the Upstream Management system. The Sony Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval Agreement is based on a strict compliance with environment-related laws and regulations, procurement of specified raw materials from a Green Partner, and a promise to cooperate with Sony in various ways. Once Sony receives this agreement, the Sony Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval process is complete

and the supplier becomes a Sony Green Partner.

The Sony Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval will employ an updating system, so even after becoming a Green Partner, suppliers are subject to a renewal audit on a regular basis; similarly, the Sony Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval will need to be updated.

In case that Green Partner supplier fails to achieve a score of a certain number for a renewal audit, or in case that act of violation of Sony's approval standards by Green Partner supplier, such as an occurrence of environmental defect with delivered part, etc. is found, the designation of the supplier as the Green Partner is to be revoked.

* Designated raw materials mean the raw materials specified by Sony that a supplier uses in products they supply to Sony.

(Designated raw materials are coated wires, inks, paints and molding resin as of August 1, 2005.)

* Please refer to the attached diagram for information about the Sony Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval Program

(c) Certificate of Non-Use, ICP Measurement Data, List of Constituent Substances (or MSDS)

Confirmation of the Upstream Management system is provided by the Sony Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval Program, but we ask the suppliers to provide supporting evidence to ensure that the system functions via submission of certifications such as Certificate of Non-Use of Environment-Related Substances to be Controlled (for the parts approval evaluation), Measurement Data by ICP-AES, etc., and a List of Constituent Substances (or MSDS).

The Certificate of Non-Use of Environment-Related Substances to be Controlled is a document that warrants that there are no substances banned for use (stipulated in level 1) stipulated in SS-00259 included in the parts, devices, and raw materials supplied by a supplier. Measurement Data by ICP-AES, etc. is a measure of the content and proves that there is no cadmium and lead in the plastic and that four heavy metals (cadmium, lead, mercury and hexavalent chromium) are not contained in packaging materials used for Sony products. The List of Materials Constituent Substances (or MSDS) provides information about other constituent substances.

In a viewpoint of upstream management, it is not necessary for suppliers to obtain Measurement Data by ICP-AES, etc. and a List of Materials Constituent Substances (or MSDS) measured by themselves. Sony asks its supplier to obtain and keep Measurement Data by ICP-AES, etc. and a List of Materials Constituent Substances (or MSDS) submitted by raw material suppliers that Sony's supplier purchases its raw materials from.

At Sony we confirm that the suppliers' environmental management systems are actually functioning by verifying the data of the aforementioned submitted certificate documents and via Sony's internal verification measurements.

(d) Change Control Confirmation Sheet (Production Parts)

When a person in charge is transferred, a production site changes, or procurement or production methods change, it often happens that the level of control over Upstream Management is greatly influenced. If they are fundamental changes, it is necessary that the Upstream Management in its entirety be reviewed from the very first step. However, it is not realistic to conduct another audit every time some changes occur. So, as a solution to this, Sony has decided to ask suppliers to submit a Change Control Confirmation Sheet. Suppliers who deliver mass-produced parts use this document to indicate whether there have been any production-related changes. By making comparisons between products before and after a management system change, we aim to discover problems related to the management system at an early stage.

3. Building an Environmental Database

SEPARATES (Database of Environment-related Substances to be Controlled for Parts)

At Sony, we gather an enormous amount of information through our Sony Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval Program, and the various kinds of documents submitted by our suppliers. Our suppliers spend a great deal of time and effort providing us with this information and we put it to good use at Sony.

At Sony we have built an environment-related substance to be controlled database called SEPARATES, which we launched into operation in October 2002. This database updates information which is shared internally about each supplier, such as Sony Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval, as well as information on each part such as Certificate of Non-Use of Environment-Related Substances to be Controlled, Measurement Data by ICP-AES, etc., and the results of data verification compiled by Sony. We use the information gathered in SEPARATES for Sony environmental activities, beginning with green procurement.

Green Book (Database of Raw Materials that Comply with SS-00259)

For the main raw materials centering on the designated raw materials, we at Sony obtain all necessary environmental data on each. This information is available to our parts suppliers on the raw materials database called Green Book. For a raw material listed in Green Book, submission of Measurement Data by ICP-AES, etc. and a List of Materials Constituent Substances (or MSDS) is not necessary if a Green Book number is mentioned on the Certificate of Non-Use of Environment-Related Substances to be Controlled.

For further improvement of the current operation, we plan to introduce an industry's standard such as JGPSSI in due course.

4. To Become Sony Green Partner

A mass-produced parts supplier needs to become Sony Green Partner before starting business with Sony. If you are a mass-produced parts supplier and starting business with Sony, please consult with Sony's managing procurement division on audit on the factories of parts for Sony, sourcing of the designated raw materials, and conclusion of the Green Partner agreement, etc.

If you are the designated raw material supplier and have no direct business with Sony, please consult with Sony's parts supplier and decide appropriateness of application for Green Partner approval. For further application procedure, please consult with Sony's procurement division via Sony's parts supplier.

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Date Issued: February 1, 2003
Date Revised: August 1, 2005
Issued By: Procurement Center, Sony Corporation

Contact

Quality Assurance Department, Procurement Center,
Sony Corporation
Address: 6-7-35 Kitashinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0001 Japan
Tel.: +81-3-5795-6732
Fax : +81-3-5795-6740
E-Mail : prc.env@jp.sony.com

Overview of “Green Partner Environmental Quality Approval Program”

