

Initiatives for Preventing Air Pollution

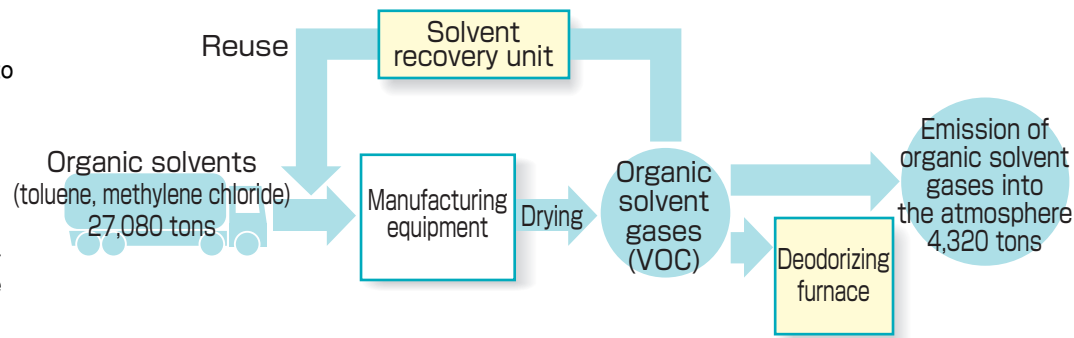
Reduction of organic solvents

Various organic solvents are used to produce adhesive tape, and this is Nitto Denko's main business. The company is therefore taking measures to develop products that do not use organic solvents and to minimize organic solvents that volatilize into the atmosphere during the production process. Emission of solvent gases has already been dramatically reduced by development of various types of adhesive tape that does not use organic solvents and

installation of solvent recovery equipment and deodorizing furnaces (for incinerating organic solvent gases). Nitto Denko gives top priority to research and development of technologies to reduce use of solvents, and is giving its full support to the Adhesive Tape Research Center to develop adhesive tape that does not use organic solvents.

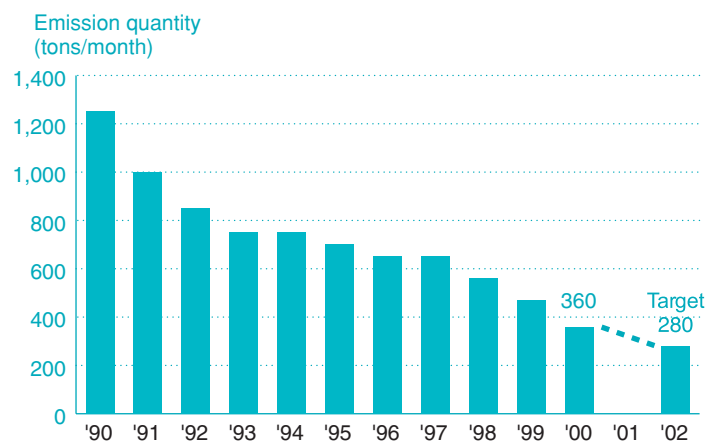
Organic solvent flow

Almost the entire volume of organic solvents used at Nitto Denko volatilize during the drying process of manufacturing equipment. Taking measures to control emission of such gases, 4,320 tons of organic solvent gases were discharged into the atmosphere in fiscal 2000.



Quantity of organic solvent gases emitted

The amount of organic solvent gases escaping into the atmosphere has been reduced due to a higher percentage of adhesive tapes that do not use organic solvents such as craft tape and a better rate of solvent recovery.



Development of technologies to produce solvent-free tape

Nitto Denko is working on development of technologies for following five themes to develop the ideal solvent-free tape for various applications:

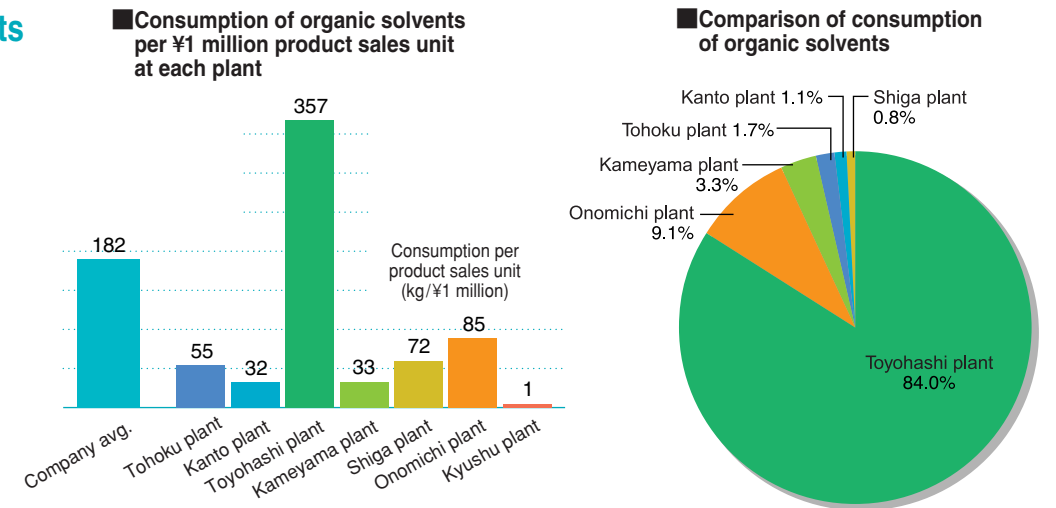
- Emulsion tape that uses water instead of solvents
- Ultraviolet-polymerized adhesive polymerized by applying in sheets
- Hot-melt adhesive tape
- Solid adhesive that takes advantage of the fact that polymers soften at high temperatures
- High-solid adhesive with reduced solvent content



■ Double-coated adhesive tape ■ Surface protection film

Comparison of plants (fiscal 2000)

Consumption per product unit at the Toyohashi plant was reduced from 371 last year to 357. Using hot-melt technology for craft tape and an improved solvent recovery rate contributed to this.



PRTR initiatives

Nitto Denko has been involved in PRTR (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register) to reduce the amount of toxic chemicals used and discharged since 1997. In fiscal 2000, the company used 63 of the 354 substances coming under PRTR applicable to the pilot project of the Ministry of the Environment, 26 of which were

released into the atmosphere. Use of trichloroethylene was banned in 1998 and tetrachloroethylene in 1999. The company is also working to reduce discharge of organic solvents such as toluene and plans to continue to do so.

Substances applicable to PRTR discharges in quantities on one ton per year or more in fiscal 2000 (Percentage for each plant)

