

Zeon Chemicals Yonezawa Co., Ltd.

Company Profile

Business Description

Manufacture and sale of perfumes and pharmaceutical and agrochemical intermediates, manufacture and sale of RIM blended solutions

Established in 1996 as a producer of fine chemical products, Zeon Chemicals Yonezawa began production of synthetic aroma chemicals in 1997 and reaction injection molding (RIM) compounds in 1998.

No. of Employees

As of March 31, 2020: 35 (33 men, 2 women)

Hiring in FY 2019: 2 (2 men, 0 woman)



Zeon Chemicals Yonezawa Co., Ltd.

Product image



Product image
Perfumes made
with synthetic

Molded product
made with RIM
compound

Company Policy (Executive Message)

The company is the only Zeon Group production base in northern Japan. FY 2020 was the final year of the SZ-20 medium-term management plan Phase III. Since safety is the most important aspect of production activities, we adopted “Acting with safety as the highest priority in everything and achieving the goals of the final year of Phase III” as our policy for FY 2020 and specified the following key issues that need to be addressed.

1. Achieve zero safety incidents and no accidents. Implement measures to achieve this.
2. Reform the details of operations in an effort to raise productivity.
3. Pursue quality that meets customer needs.
4. Implementing cost reduction measures on an ongoing basis
5. Complete contract research work and raise plant technical skills.
6. Implement activities to meet society's expectations



President
Koichi Miyagi

Safety Initiatives

Policy

With a commitment to the basics, create stable, safe, and comfortable workplaces.

Specific Initiatives

Increased sensory awareness through hands-on education

- Provide controlled combustion and explosion experience with alkyl aluminum (category 3 hazardous substance), which we use in manufacturing, in cooperation with the fire department and a chemicals manufacturer.



Hands-on education

Enhance Hazard Detection Abilities through 4R-KYT

- We introduced 4R-KYT* and are implementing accident and disaster prevention measures. These measures are implemented with the aim of preventing risky behavior by analyzing in small groups the hidden risk factors in the workplace and work tasks and the phenomena they cause to come to a mutual understanding.
- * 4R-KYT (basic four-round hazard prediction training) is a risk prediction method that progress through four stages (rounds). A team uses illustration sheets and on-site photos to identify hidden risks in the workplace and work tasks. Through repeated training, each individual's sensitivity, concentration abilities, and problem-solving abilities are enhanced.



Environmental Impact Reductions

Policy

Maintain record of zero emissions, and conduct activities to reduce our environmental impact.

Specific Initiatives

1. Maintain record of zero emissions

- Recycle and reuse resources
- Practice thermal recycling

2. Conserving resources and energy

- Reduce power consumption

3. Environmental data

* "0" indicates less than 0.5 tons, and "0.0" indicates less than 0.05 tons

Zeon Chemicals Yonezawa Co., Ltd.		FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Substances subject to the PRTR Act	No. of substances	3	4	5	5	6
	Consumption (tons)	1,567	1,576	4,544	3,880	2,787
	Emissions (tons)	0.6	0.6	1.5	1.4	1.0
Industrial waste	Amount generated before compacting (tons)	182	180	232	215	284
	Amount sent to landfills (tons)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Water resource consumption (1,000 m ³) (industrial water + groundwater + waterworks)		12	14	18	16	14
CO ₂ emissions (tons)		1,815	1,716	2,089	1,927	1,804
Energy consumption (crude oil equivalent, kL)		762	720	876	864	792
Electricity consumption (1,000 kWh)		2,050	1,820	2,001	1,800	1,758

* Our electricity consumption has increased due to full-scale running of new experiments, resulting in higher CO₂ emissions and energy consumption in FY 2015.

* In conjunction with the increase in production volume, CO₂ emissions and energy consumption have increased since FY 2017.

Relationship with Employees

Policy

Cultivate human talent who set themselves challenging goals, and implement improvement and reform activities on an ongoing basis.

Specific Initiatives

1. Invigoration of ZΣ cycle activities

The Zeon Group uses the name “ZΣ Activities” to refer to quality control activities. At Zeon Chemicals Yonezawa, we hold annual presentations to showcase the achievements of our ZΣ Activities, and the members of a representative ZΣ Activities team are sent to attend the Group-wide presentation; in this way, we aim to strengthen employees’ awareness of the need for ongoing improvement, and to enhance overall employee skill levels.

2. Naseba-naru Awards (in-house commendations)

Naseba-naru Awards are given to employees who have demonstrated significant results, including implementing improvements and creating systems, safety and 5S’s, and corporate culture reforms. Seven employees received the commendation in FY 2017, six in FY 2018, and five in FY 2019. The meaning of Naseba-naru comes from a quote by Uesugi Yozan, the head of the Yonezawa domain during the mid-Edo Period, who is remembered for achieving financial and other reforms of the domain. He famously said, “If you put your mind to it, you can do it” (Nasebanaru in Japanese).

Relationship with the Local Community

Compliance and other activities to fulfill society’s expectations.

Specific Initiatives

1. Participation in community events

Yamagata Prefecture experiment classrooms

We set up an experiment craft booth at the 2019 Youth Science Festival in Yamagata. Together with children, we made air fresheners by adding our synthetic aroma chemicals to water-absorbent resin containing colored water. A total of 98 elementary and junior high school students learned about synthetic aroma chemicals while enjoying the craft activity.



Experiment classrooms

2. Uesugi Snow Lantern Festival

Held every year, the Uesugi Snow Lantern Festival creates a magical atmosphere symbolizing local residents’ wishes for peace. We participate every year as a part of our community activities and create snow lanterns.



Zeon’s completed snow lanterns