

Safety and Accident Prevention

A manufacturer's starting point is the plant. Our management and plants work together every day to achieve their shared mission of "emphasizing safety, the environment and quality, and ensuring a 100% accident-free and incident-free workplace".

Dialogue Between Management and Plants

There is an active program of management visits to each plant to provide the opportunity for dialogue between the management and plants. This includes direct interaction with the plant staff who work at the front line to allow frank discussion about how best to make the plants even safer and more reliable than they currently are, with "good judgments save money" being the key principle. The President actively promotes these dialogues and he made 56 plant visits in 2005, 43 in 2006 and 46 in 2007.

The President takes the lead in promoting safety management

Recognizing that safety takes priority over all other management issues, the president is at the forefront of efforts to establish the best possible safety management system across the whole company.

1. Introduction of an equipment information management system to prevent omissions ("Never rely on 'maybe' or 'should'").

We are making effective use of the reporting, inspection planning, inspection records and inspection omission detection functions of the new system that was introduced in 2004. Upgrades are also being made to the system for storing drawings.

2. Plant deterioration countermeasures and foolproofing measures ("Good judgments save money")

The essential elements for a safe and stable workplace are people, equipment and money.

We formulate systematic countermeasures on a scientific basis, such as estimating the remaining life of equipment. We are advancing fool-proofing to prevent accidents by involving all employees in brainstorming.

3. Review of past accidents and recurrence prevention ("Never rely on 'maybe' or 'should'").

To eliminate safety incidents and prevent worker accidents, we regularly use modern technology to review past accidents, determine whether current countermeasures are effective and consider whether technology is available to provide even better recurrence prevention.

4. Review of standards ("Always follow the rules. Change any rules that cannot be followed")

We constantly try to improve our standards by making them easier to observe and easier to understand. We work systematically to eliminate unnecessary standards, simplify the contents of others, and make full use of pictures and diagrams to make the standards easier to use.

Accreditation of all offices as certified safety inspectors

Following on from having the personnel responsible for safety inspections at our Mizushima and Tokuyama Plants accredited as certified safety inspectors in the 2006 financial year, the accreditations for the safety inspectors were renewed and certification was obtained for the personnel responsible for completion inspections at the Kawasaki Plant in the 2007 financial year. As a result, all sites now have safety inspectors who are certified under the new law.

Plant Safety Evaluation

When we commission a new plant or an upgrade to an existing plant, we evaluate the plant's safety in five stages from the basic design through to the start of production. This involves setting up detailed check lists for safety evaluation with the aim of creating a more reliable and safe plant. We performed 54 such checks in 2006 and 75 in 2007.

All ZEON Safety Conference

April of each year is ZEON Safety Month during which we increase our emphasis on safety activities. Risk prediction is a major focus with extra effort put into 4R-KF, while enthusiasm for safety activities is boosted by distributing safety relay essays about risk prediction to all employees.

The All ZEON Safety Conference is also held during this period. This successful event was attended by about 160 people including the President.

This year's conference included a lecture from an invited speaker entitled "safety is determined by how top management behave" that covered the prevention of human error, accidents, and other incidents. Other presentations described case studies of practical 4R-KY work, foolproofing work, and measures for preventing accidents and work injuries.

The conference recognized the people working on ongoing safety activities and the President distributed commendations and prizes to each participant to help foster a culture of safety awareness.



Inspection tour by the President



All ZEON Safety Conference