Health and Safety

The Tokyo Electron Group promotes good health and safety for all who are involved in our business. We believe effective health and safety management is one of our responsibilities to society and an important element of our operations.

For the Safety of All

The Tokyo Electron Group places great emphasis on the health and safety of customers, employees and anybody else involved in our business. Ensuring a safe workplace, safe products and healthy lives for our stakeholders is part of our responsibility to society.

Based on this belief, we provided safety training seminars for managers from October 2006 to March 2008. A total of 55 sessions were held at 12 plants and offices in Japan, in which 818 managers of our Group participated.

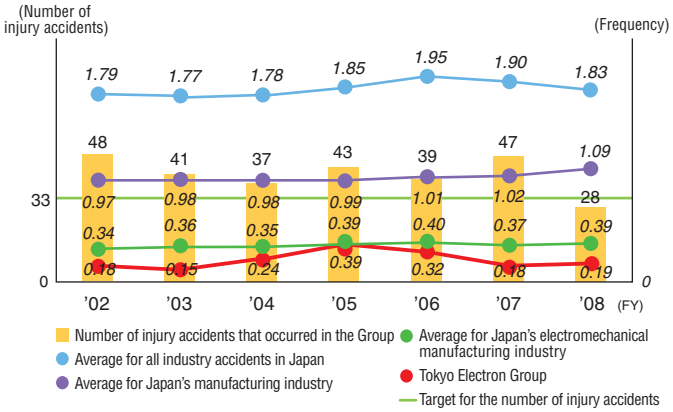
The training program started with a video message from top management, moved on to a lecture on human factors in accidents, analysis of actual accident cases and video-based learning on the obligation to maintain safety. It wrapped up with a presentation by each participant on their safety action plans. A great deal of positive feedback was given in the post-seminar survey, with comments including, "The best training program ever;" "From now on, I would like to practice what I learned in the program;" "I was able to follow the course easily because the example cases were familiar;" and "The seminar made me recognize that I am the steward of my group members' safety."

Safety Seminar for Managers

Preventing Accidents

In fiscal year 2008, while sales and shipment of products were increasing, the Tokyo Electron Group saw at least a 40% decline in the number of injury accidents (excluding minor accidents) from the previous year, achieving the goal of a 33% reduction from the 2000 level. This dramatic reduction was made possible thanks to our global safety management program, which was previously only operated in Japan. We particularly focused on safe installation of our products in factories of new customers in Asia. As a result, far fewer injury accidents occurred during installation or maintenance work. Other contributors to the reduced injury rate were the development of original safety tools, improvement of safety training programs and product design changes to reduce work in high places and heavy lifting. We are planning to take further steps to reduce injury accidents. In addition, from the fiscal year 2008 data, we have begun to calculate the frequency of occupational accidents based on the number of accidents resulting in one or more full-day absence in Japan.

Frequency of Occupational Accidents and Number of Injury Accidents

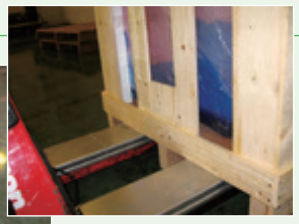


Note: The number of injury accidents is shown, taking the number in FY 2001 as 100.
Frequency of occupational accidents: based on the number of occupational accidents per one million labor hours

TOPICS

Development of New Weight Scale to Reduce Accidents during Handling of Heavy Objects

Accurate measurement of weight is an important process in handling heavy objects. Visual or tactile assessment of weight tends to be misleading; workers often find the actual weight is heavier than they estimated. In the past, inaccurate measurement of the objects to be handled led to many injuries of Group employees, with the most common problems being back pain or getting stuck under the object. To prevent such accidents, we have implemented special weight scales which are traditionally equipped with tools for handling small parts and products.



Weight scale

Ensuring Product-Related Safety

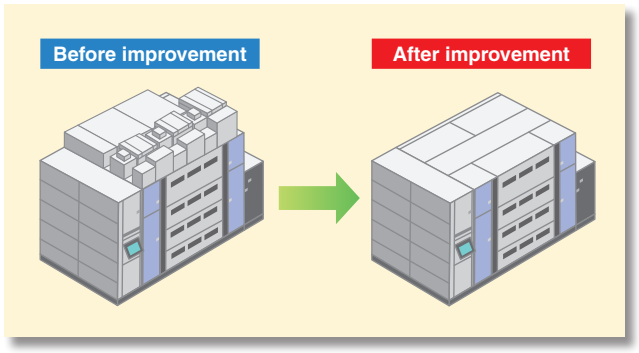
Safety has become an increasingly important element of our equipment design and development, reflecting growing demand from employees and customers. In response, we provided an online equipment safety education program in fiscal year 2007 with regard to the handling of our products. This web-based education provides necessary information for equipment safety design, such as risk assessment details, and lessons learned from past accidents.

Online safety management training program

In recent years, our equipment has become taller as we seek better productivity amid smaller space requirements. This means a greater number of assembly and adjustment processes need to be conducted in high places and there is greater risk that our employees may fall. We work in earnest to minimize accidents during work in high places as part of our effort to achieve genuinely safe product design, "A safety program for product handling." Our latest coater/developers are designed to require less work, especially less heavy lifting, from high places. In particular, heavy components that were previously located on the top of equipment are now installed on the inside. In addition, we reduced the number of component adjustments and revised the frequency of periodic maintenance.

When assembling previous models, we needed to use safety steps and access platforms 90 times to complete one piece of our equipment, whereas the latest model requires 50 times.

Eliminating Units on the Top Side



Offering Safety Training with Hands-on Experience

Desktop training and other vicarious learning may not be powerful enough to develop necessary vigilance for safe operations. Therefore, our Saga Plant provides hands-on experience training which aims to provide actual or simulated experience of what dangerous operational work is like, to raise employee awareness of occupational safety, reducing accidents and the resulting damage and injuries. During the training to experience work in high places, participants learn about proper usage of safety belts through use of a torso belt or a harness-type safety belt.


Experiencing being hung

Immersion into liquid

To learn the risk of handling pressurized liquid chemicals, participants wear protective clothes and goggles and are exposed to simulated pressurized water in a pipe. This experience is designed to ensure participants understand the importance of wearing protective gear in the correct manner.

To experience the potential of being electrocuted, participants touch an energized electrode with bare hands. Although sparks will result if a pair of energized electrodes come into contact, the shock from the three 12-V batteries connected in series does not affect the human body.


Electrode used in training

Witnessing the power of heavy objects

Participants also learn the potential risks of heavy objects by seeing floor tiles (the same type of those used in actual clean rooms) falling, crushing empty cans.