

March 25, 1999
Kuraray Co., Ltd.

Kashima Plant Acquires ISO 14001 Certification

Kuraray's Kashima Plant was recently awarded ISO 14001 certification, the international standard established by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for environmental management systems, by the Japan Quality Assurance Organization (JQA). (certification date March 12, 1999)

This is the first time one of the Company's facilities has been awarded ISO 14001 certification, and we have begun preparations for our Okayama and Nakajo plants to be certified by March 2000.

Kuraray has long taken a lead on environmental preservation, establishing specialized environmental departments at head office and its plants in 1970 and introducing the Regulations for Environmental Control and Industrial Safety in 1977.

Moreover in 1991, in an effort to respond more aggressively to environmental problems and to make a greater contribution to society, we set up the Philanthropy and Environment Committee under the auspices of the Executive Committee, and in 1993 produced a set of in-house environmental guidelines, the "Kuraray Action Guidelines on the Global Environment." We have developed our business by making harmony with the natural environment a top priority, and creating and supplying socially useful products.

Amid growing awareness of environmental problems worldwide, we introduced an environmental management system in line with international standards as part of the "Responsible Care" movement, which was instrumental in our drive for ISO 14001 certification.

While steadily working toward obtaining certification for each of its plants, Kuraray will continue its endeavors to reduce the various burdens it places on the environment, including efforts to cut industrial waste and lower energy consumption, as well as promoting recycling.