

Law for the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources

The Law for Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources was enacted in May 2000 and was put into force in April 2001. This Law aims at establishing a sound material-cycle economic system by; () enhancing measures for recycling goods and resources by implementing collection and recycling of used products by business entities, () reducing waste generation by promoting resource saving and ensuring longer life of products, and () newly implementing measures for reusing parts recovered from collected used products and, at the same time as measures to address reduction of industrial wastes by accelerating reduction of by-products and recycle. This is an epoch making law which requires to reduce, reuse and recycle (3Rs) as part of measures, covers from upstream part, including product design, measures against industrial wastes through downstream part such as collection and recycling of used products.

1. Designated resource-saving industries

Business entities in the following category of business are required to reduce generation of by-products (by ensuring rational use of raw materials and promotion of use of by-products as recyclable resources).

- Pulp and paper
- Inorganic chemical manufacturing (excluding salt manufacturing) and organic chemical manufacturing
- Iron-making and steel-making/rolling
- Primary copper smelting and refining
- Automobile manufacturing (including motorized bicycle manufacturing)

2. Designated resource-recycling industries

Business entities engaged in the following categories of business are encouraged to use recyclable resources and parts

- Paper manufacturing
- Glass container manufacturing
- Construction
- Rigid PVC pipes and pipe fitting manufacturing
- Copier manufacturing

3. Specified reuse-promoted products

Manufacturers (manufacturers and repair businesses in automobile sector) of the following products are required to ensure rational use of raw material, prolong product life and reduce

generation of other used products

- Automobiles
- Home appliances (television sets, air conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, microwave ovens and clothes dryers)
- Personal computers
- Pachinko machines (including rotary type)
- Metal furniture (metal cupboards, shelves, office desks and swivel chairs)
- Gas and oil appliances (oil heaters, gas cookers with grills, switch-on gas water heaters, bath heaters with gas burners, oil-fired water heaters)

4. Specified reuse-promoted products

Manufacturers (manufacturers and repair businesses in automobile sector) engaged in the following categories of products are required to promote the use of recyclable resources and recovered products (designing and manufacturing products that can be easily reused or recycled).

- Automobiles
- Home appliance (television sets, air conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, microwave ovens and clothes dryers)
- Personal computers
- Pachinko machines (including rotary type)
- Copiers
- Metal furniture (metal cupboards, shelves, office desks and swivel chairs)
- Gas and oil appliances (oil heaters, gas cookers with grills, switch-on gas water heaters, bath heaters with gas burners, oil fired water heaters)
- Bathroom units and kitchen systems
- Devices using compact rechargeable batteries (28 items including power tools and cordless phones)

5. Specified labeled products

Manufacturers and importers of the following categories of products are required to label these products to facilitate sorted collection.

- Steel cans and aluminum cans
- PET bottles
- Compact rechargeable batteries (sealed nickel-cadmium batteries, sealed nickel-metal-hydride batteries, lithium batteries and compact sealed lead batteries)
- PVC construction materials (rigid PVC pipes, spouts and window frames, PVC flooring and wallpaper)
- Paper containers and packages and plastic containers and packages

6. Specified resource-recycled products

Manufacturers and importers of the following categories of products are required to promote self-collection and recycling. As for compact rechargeable batteries, manufacturers and importers of devices in which sealed compact rechargeable batteries are used as parts are required to promote self-collection and recycling of sealed compact rechargeable batteries.

- Personal computers (including cathode-ray tube display and liquid crystal display)
- Compact rechargeable batteries (sealed nickel-cadmium batteries, sealed nickel-metal-hydride batteries, lithium batteries and compact sealed lead batteries)

7. Specified by-products

Business entities which deal the following by-products are required to promote the use of these by-products as recyclable resources.

- Coal ash generated by the electricity industry
- Soil and sand, a slab of concrete-asphalt and lumber generated by construction industry

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"Recyclable resources" :

Articles that are useful and exist among used goods or by-products, and usable as raw material

"Reusable parts" :

Articles that are usable among used goods and are usable as parts or a part of the product

Basic Policy

The competent minister shall establish and announce the basic policy in order to comprehensively promote the effective use of resource by utilizing recyclable resources and reusable parts.

Competent Ministers

Minister of Finance,
Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare,
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry,
Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
Minister of the Environment

Responsibility

Business Entity

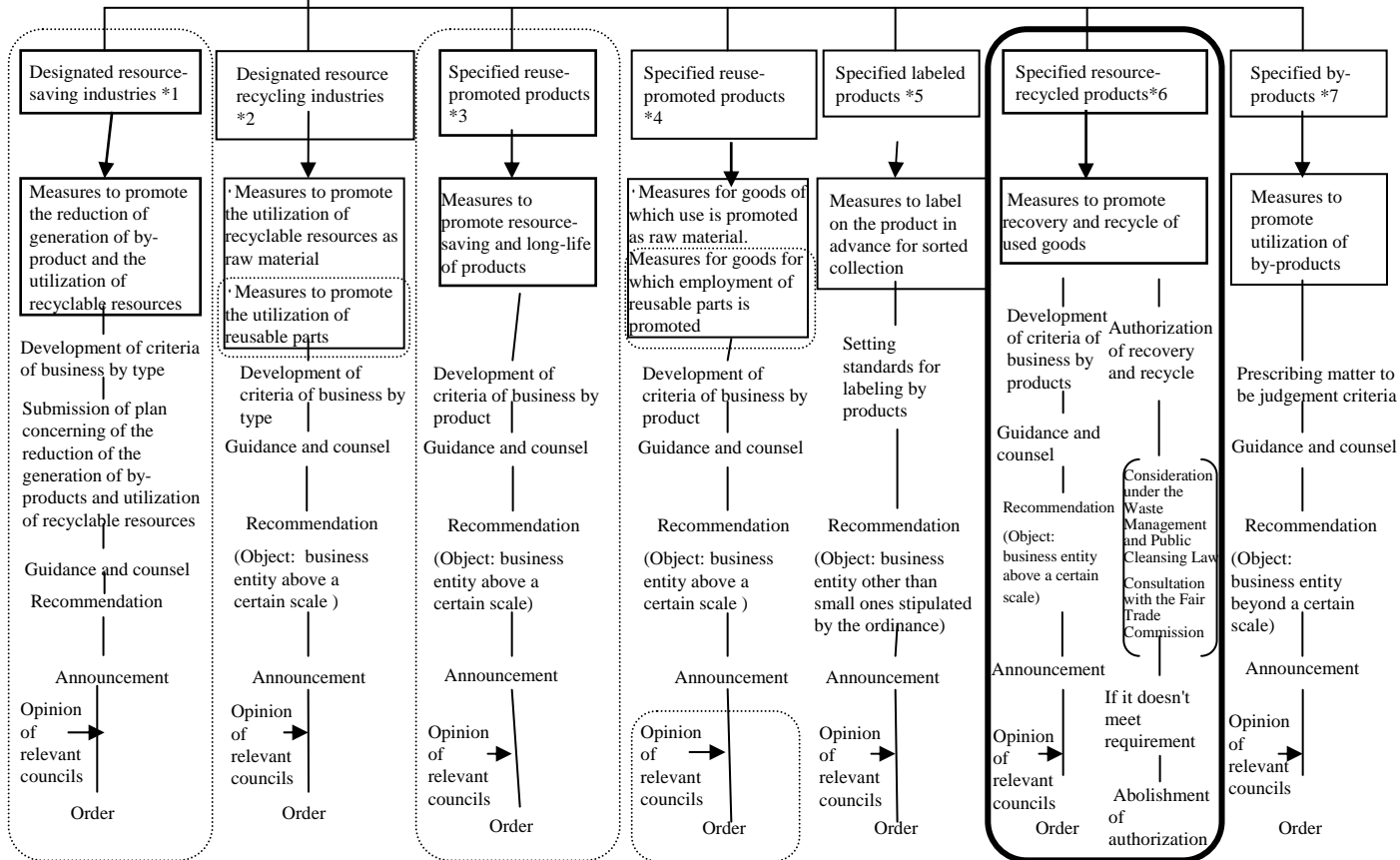
Consumer

Government, Local Authorities

- Rationalize use of raw materials in order to reduce the generation of used goods and by-products
- Utilization of recyclable resources and reusable parts
- Promotion of the utilization of used goods and by-products as recyclable resources and reusable parts

- Long-term use of products
- Promotion of the utilization of recyclable resources and reusable parts through using goods made of/from them
- Cooperation with the government, local authorities and business entities in implementation of measures

- Securing funds
- Promotion of the utilization of recyclable resources and reusable parts when procuring articles
- Promotion of science and technology
- Measures to deepen citizen's understanding



Examples

- *1 steel, paper, chemical and nonferrous metal industries
- *2 manufactures of paper, glass container and copier, and construction industry
- *3 automobiles, home appliances, large furniture, oil and gas appliance and personal computer, and pachinko machines
- *4 personal computer, copy machine, automobile and pachinko machines

- *5 steel cans, aluminum cans, PET bottles, secondary batteries, paper containers and packages, and plastic containers and packages
- *6 personal computer and secondary battery
- *7 electric and construction industries

Note: Actions enclosed by dashed line or heavy line fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Environment. Underlined sections indicate amendments in YY.