

July 28, 2005

## TaiyoYuden: Kankyo Assist Obtains ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation for Analysis of Hazardous Substances

*First Accreditation in Gunma Prefecture, Demonstrates High Quality of Chemical Test Lab Analyses*



Kankyo Assist Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Taiyo Yuden, was accredited on July 20 by the Japan Accreditation Board for conformity assessment (JAB) as being in conformance with the international standard ISO/IEC 17025 for chemical test laboratories engaged in analyses of hazardous substances. Kankyo Assist is the ninth organization in Japan to obtain the ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation from JAB, and the first from Gunma prefecture. ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation is normally limited to large-scale R&D facilities or to test laboratories of at least 50 people located within large corporations, and it is extremely rare for a small company like Kankyo Assist (total number of employees: 13) to obtain such accreditation. It was active utilization of the advanced chemical analysis technology of the Taiyo Yuden Group that helped secure the ISO/IEC 17025 certification.

The RoHS (Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances) and ELV (End of Life Vehicle) directives in the European Union (EU) are pushing components manufacturers to ensure that the parts supplied for set manufacturers do not contain hazardous substances. As a result, companies are increasingly turning to test laboratories with ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation because of their assurance of reliable measurement quality. Kankyo Assist has already built up a successful analysis business based on quick service response, with turnaround time of less than a week for normal situations, and quick-assessment reports available in just one day for urgent requests. Now the company has secured ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for quantitative ICP (Inductively Coupled Plasma) analysis of cadmium, lead, and total chromium in polyethylene, and can be considered world-class for its high quality analysis. Now, with ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, the company offers proof of highly reliable analysis data services to go along with its reputation for quick service turnarounds.

In addition to analysis of hazardous substances in parts, packaging materials, and raw materials, etc., Kankyo Assist offers quantitative environmental analysis, comprehensive analysis of work environments, recycling business, and consulting for acquisition of ISO certification.

Kankyo Assist's analysis work includes chemical testing of hazardous substances under the ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation granted by JAB (ICP quantitative analysis of cadmium, lead, and total chromium in polyethylene), as well as analysis of cadmium, lead, total chromium, hexavalent chromium, mercury, designated bromic flame retardant (polybrominated biphenyls and polybrominated diphenyl ethers), and asbestos in various parts and products. For the ISO consulting business, the company offers its own experience and skills in meeting ISO standards, particularly in support of ISO certification for small and medium-size enterprises, thus fulfilling responsibilities to society by playing an important role in promoting environmental activities.

Taiyo Yuden is concentrating all its environmental business into its subsidiary, Kankyo Assist. The company's intentions are to build up an environment-related business model that incorporates total solutions, and to improve management efficiency through unification of operation foundations, as well as to bring personnel resources together toward development of a core of highly skilled environment professionals.

## Company Profile

Name : Kankyo Assist Co., Ltd.

Location : 2947-1, Kuragano-machi, Takasaki-shi, Gunma 370-1201

Ownership : 30 million yen (100% wholly owned subsidiary of Taiyo Yuden)

Date established : January 16, 1998

(converted into a subsidiary company on March 1, 2004)

President : Toshiyasu Hasegawa

Description of business : Analysis, recycling operations, and ISO qualification consulting

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