

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

1992

MARCH

Minebea represents Japanese corporations in Thailand at the Japan-U.S. Stratospheric Ozone Protection Conference, where it displays a proprietary washing technology that uses purified and deoxidized water rather than specified CFCs or ethane.



Water-based washing system

1991

JULY

Minebea organizes the Anti-CFC Committee with the aim of phasing out the use of specified CFCs and ethane as cleaning agents.

1993

APRIL

Minebea becomes the first bearing manufacturer in the world to completely eliminate specified CFCs and ethane from all production processes.

(Note: Minebea installed its water-based washing system at all of its plants, at a total cost of ¥5.0 billion, enabling it to terminate use of approximately 145 tons of specified CFCs and 325 tons of ethane monthly worldwide.)

The Anti-CFC Committee is replaced by the Environmental Protection Committee.

JULY

Minebea displays its water-based washing technology at the Ozone Layer Protection Seminar, sponsored by Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

AUGUST

Minebea formulates its own "Charter for Environmental Protection."

OCTOBER

Minebea's Thai subsidiaries and the parent company receive the U.S. EPA's Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award.

1995

OCTOBER

Goro Ogino, then president of Minebea, receives the Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award for individuals, from the U.S. EPA.



Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award

1991

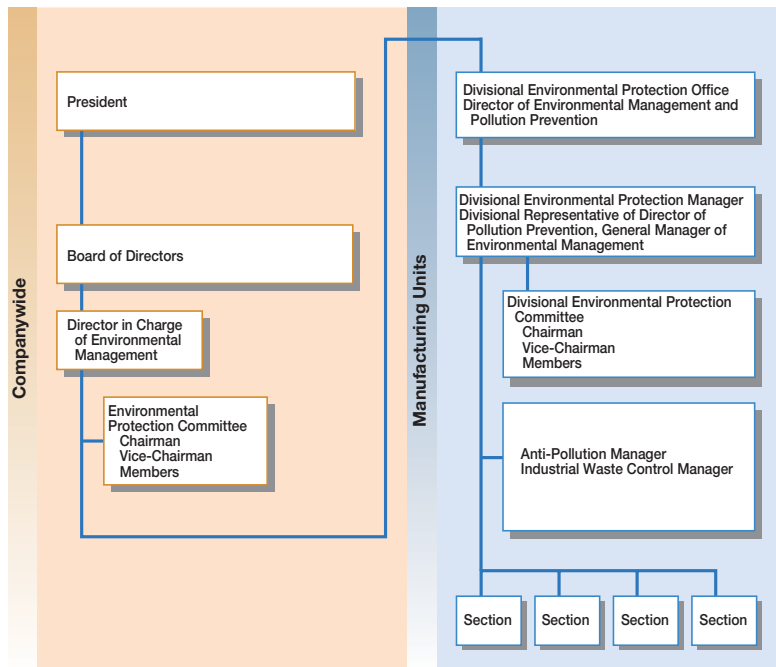
1992

1993

1995

1996

Minebea's Environmental Management System



1996

APRIL

Minebea Electronics & Hi-Tech Components (Shanghai) Ltd. establishes the Shanghai-Minebea Environmental Protection Fund, aimed at protecting the quality of the water in Lake Daishan-hu and the lake's surrounding environment.

JULY

Minebea finalizes plans to obtain ISO 14001 certification, the ISO's standard for environmental management systems.



Systematic environmental education and procedural training

1997

APRIL

The Karuizawa Manufacturing Unit, the principal parent plant and U.K. subsidiary Rose Bearings Ltd.'s Lincoln plant become the first bearing production facilities to obtain ISO 14001 certification.



Rose Bearings' Lincoln plant

Karuizawa Manufacturing Unit



Wastewater treatment facilities at a Minebea plant in Thailand



On-site environmental inspection (Karuizawa Manufacturing Unit)

SEPTEMBER

The Minebea Group is selected as winner of the U.S. EPA's Best-of-the-Best Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award.

OCTOBER

All of Minebea's plants in Thailand obtain ISO 14001 certification.



Minebea's Thai plants receive ISO 14001 certification

DECEMBER

Minebea Electronics & Hi-Tech Components' (Shanghai) two plants obtain ISO 14001 certification.



The Shanghai plant's cutting line is equipped with oil separators, which separate oil from metal chips, and oil collection ducts.

1997

1998

1999

2000

2001

1998

JANUARY

The Singapore Plant obtains ISO 14001 certification.

FEBRUARY

German subsidiary Precision-Motors-Deutsche-Minebea-GmbH (PMDM) obtains ISO 14001 certification.

JUNE

Goro Ogino, then president of Minebea, receives the City of Shanghai's Shanghai Environmental Protection Award, in recognition of his contributions to environmental preservation in the city.

Japanese subsidiaries NMB Electro Precision, Inc., Minebea Onkyo Co., Ltd. (R&D Center), and Actus Corporation obtain ISO 14001 certification.

AUGUST

The Hamamatsu Manufacturing Unit, the parent plant for electronic components, obtains ISO 14001 certification.

OCTOBER

The Fujisawa and Omori Manufacturing units obtain ISO 14001 certification.

1999

JANUARY

The Kyoto Manufacturing Unit obtains ISO 14001 certification.

FEBRUARY

Rose Bearings Ltd.'s Skegness plant obtains ISO 14001 certification.

JUNE

U.S. subsidiary New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc.'s Peterborough plant obtains ISO 14001 certification.

NOVEMBER

U.K. subsidiary NMB (U.K.) Ltd.'s Inchinnan Keyboard Printing plant obtains ISO 14001 certification.

2000

OCTOBER

Minebea Electronics (UK) Ltd. obtains ISO 14001 certification.

2001

MAY

The Shanghai-Minebea Environmental Protection Fund is increased to Rmb 11.0 million, from Rmb 7.5 million.

JULY

U.S. subsidiary Hansen Corporation obtains ISO 14001 certification.

NOVEMBER

U.S. subsidiary New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc.'s Chatsworth plant obtains ISO 14001 certification.