

Press Release

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Eco-Label awards energy-saving and sustainable instruments

Reduced materials use and lower energy consumption / Sustainable production of analyzers / Five systems already available in Europe

Shimadzu, one of the world-leaders in analytical instrumentation, has developed its own, very demanding eco label. This label distinguishes instruments that are produced in compliance with the strictest conditions and that allow users to benefit from lower energy consumption and reduced materials use during daily operation. The eco label is currently featured on Shimadzu's GCMS-QP2010 Ultra and SE, the LC-20AP systems, the GC-2025 as well as the brand-new TOC-L series available in Europe. In addition, the GCMS-QP2010 Ultra also features a special ecology mode for standby operation.

Shimadzu has already specified "Environmental protection and harmony with nature" since the mid 1990's in its 'Cubic Heart' symbol as part of its corporate philosophy. Shimadzu's analytical instruments contribute to the protection of human health and the environment. Many systems help to identify negative effects on the environment. Conventional gas chromatographs, for instance, are used in the analysis of pesticides in the environment and in foods.

Today, under the eco label program, new products are being developed which generate lower CO₂ emissions during operation. They

may consume at least 25% less energy than their predecessor models, thereby reducing operating costs.

Sustainable production of analyzers

Through energy-friendly manufacturing processes, CO₂ emissions have been reduced in Shimadzu's production facilities, for example through the use of solar energy. The consumption rate of composite materials has also been reduced. The percentage of green office supplies or manufacturing materials could be increased to over 90% and 66% respectively. Technical improvements of air conditioning systems as well as wastewater treatment contribute to environmental protection at Shimadzu.

Furthermore, environmentally friendly materials in compliance with RoHS guidelines were used during production. Further savings in the operation of these instruments also have an effect on the supply chain, for instance via the reduction of consumables and applied gases or an extension of maintenance intervals. This reduces the need for on-site service and contributes to energy savings at customer service departments.

Five systems already available in Europe

In Japan where Shimadzu offers other product segments (e.g. semiconductors) in addition to analytical instrumentation, many systems already feature the new eco label. In Europe, the first five eco-labeled instruments have been introduced to the market, and others will follow.

Living in harmony with nature and the environment while preserving the basis of life for mankind as well as flora and fauna, is more than ever a challenge for all societies and cultures in the world. It is a comprehensive issue and concerns industrial, emerging and developing countries. It is also an important issue in terms of increasing world population, which has exceeded seven billion in 2011. The world pop-

ulation prognosis for 2040 is 8 billion and by 2050 world population will surpass 9 billion. Issues concerning nourishment, food supply, resources and commodities therefore need to be addressed urgently.

Different thinking, counteracting and adopting new attitudes is feasible – this route has already been followed often in Europe: rivers have been and are being renaturalized, catalytic converters were built into automobiles, lead-free fuels have been introduced, the use of CFC's has been banned, and regulations such as RoHS and WEEE have been implemented.



Figure 1: Shimadzu's eco label already features five products available in Europe.

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