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## UL DENAN PSE Services Program DENAN News



December 4, 2008

### Japan's Home Appliance Recycling Law

Japan's Home Appliance Recycling Law enforced in April 2001 will be revised on April 1, 2009. This mandatory law obliges home appliance manufacturers and importers to recycle disposed appliances. Originally, the Law covered room air conditioners, washing machines, refrigerators and TV's with cathode ray tubes (CRTs). This revision added LCD/ Plasma TV's and cloth dryers.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that are collected from room air conditioners and refrigerators will be defused. The steel, copper, aluminum and glass that are extracted from appliances will be reused. The minimum required recycle percentages for the above items are as follows:

Room air conditioners	70 % (increased from 60 %)
Washing machines and dryers	65 % (increased from 50% for washing machines)
Refrigerators	60 % (increased from 50%)
CRT TV's	55 %
LCD/ Plasma TV's	50 %

End users wishing to dispose of the above products must submit said products to retailers or designated municipal authorities. These retailers and authorities will, in turn, forward the products to the responsible manufacturers or importers. End users must pay a recycling fee ranging from US\$20 to US\$40 when disposing any of the above products. An illegal disposal will be punishable by a maximum fine of approximately US\$100K and/ or up to five years imprisonment.

The enforcement of the Home Appliance Recycling Law has prompted manufactures to form groups to establish recycling plants, waste collecting centers and other necessary facilities. In order to lower the recycling costs, manufactures are attempting to design products with a fewer number of components, use recycle-friendly components and materials, use components with a longer life span and improve the recycling processes.

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