

Information Security and Intellectual Property

Keeping pace with the development of IT infrastructure, companies must now take more responsibility than ever for ensuring the security of information. Sharp is strengthening information management systems, improving the safety of information infrastructure, and providing employees with comprehensive training on information management and security. In addition, Sharp recognizes the importance of intellectual property and is managing this asset rigorously and appropriately.

Actions in Fiscal 2007		Objectives for Fiscal 2008
Objectives	Achievements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend self-checks and assessments for maintaining confidentiality and information security to overseas bases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented self-checks and assessments for maintaining confidentiality and information security at main overseas bases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the self-check and assessment system for maintaining confidentiality and information security to affiliated companies in Japan Promote procedures to attain Privacy Mark certification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously implement internal audits related to protecting personal information for departments that handle personal information Continuously implement education and awareness policies related to protecting personal information for employees and others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for and acquire Privacy Mark certification in Japan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed the infrastructure for acquiring Privacy Mark certification Implemented internal audits of departments that handle personal information Implemented group training related to protecting personal information at each business site 	

System to Protect Personal Information and Corporate Secrets

To protect personal information of customers and other stakeholders as well as its own corporate secrets, Sharp established the Information Security Promotion Department and the Personal Information Protection Promotion Department in 2004, and is stepping up information security and personal information protection.

Managers from all domestic group companies participate in semi-annual meetings of the IT Infrastructure/Information Security Committee (name changed in fiscal 2007), to ensure the



Screen shot of the e-learning program

thoroughness of basic policies and to check the implementation status of various action plans. In addition, once a year, Sharp provides e-learning courses for all Sharp Group employees in Japan.


In fiscal 2005, Sharp Corporation introduced a self-check and assessment system, to be conducted by every business group in Japan, to more effectively implement measures for information security and protecting confidential information. In fiscal 2007, Sharp took action to toughen self-checks and assessments related to IT asset management, control of personal computers used by outsourced personnel, and steps to be taken in case of information system failures.

In fiscal 2008, Sharp plans to raise the standards demanded of each organization for self-checks and assessments even higher, as well as extend them to all domestic affiliated companies.

To protect personal information, internal audits are conducted once a year based on Audit Rules for Handling Personal Information. Corrective measures are implemented in a timely manner for any deficiencies uncovered.

In fiscal 2007, Sharp strengthened its education and awareness efforts related to protecting personal information, including holding group training sessions at each business establishment, and disseminating education and awareness bulletins via Sharp's corporate intranet. The company also pressed ahead with infrastructure development to qualify for the Privacy Mark, a certification given to businesses that comply with the Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS) for personal information protection.

In fiscal 2008, Sharp will continue its policies designed to reinforce education and awareness, and advance the process to attain Privacy Mark certification.

 [Basic Policy on Information Security](#)
[Basic Policy on Protecting Personal Information](#)
[System for information security and protection of personal information in Japan](#)
[Privacy Mark-certified affiliated companies](#)

Reinforcing Information Security Systems at Overseas Bases

In 2006, Sharp further improved the level of security by launching regional information security committees in the world's four major areas: Europe, the Americas, Asia, and China. In addition, each base formulates and operates rules for information security based on Sharp Japan's Basic Policy on Information Security.

In fiscal 2007, Sharp introduced centralized management tools (for automatically collecting PC-stored information and the like) to develop and maintain permanent PC security measures at all Sharp Group bases worldwide, and took measures to protect critical data stored on servers. In addition, Sharp also implemented self-checks and assessments related to maintaining confidentiality and information security at principal overseas bases.

In fiscal 2008, Sharp will conduct security checks on all PCs and servers, including those used at the branches and local offices of overseas bases.

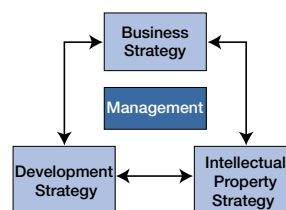
Protecting Intellectual Property


Sharp's business and R&D strategies are interlinked with its intellectual property assets, which are used to the fullest possible advantage. At the same time, Sharp is firmly committed to protecting its own intellectual property rights, while respecting the intellectual property rights of others. Even though Sharp regards discussion as the basis for resolving cases of infringement, it is the company's policy to seek judgment from a third party such as the courts when its intellectual property rights are not respected.

By strengthening in-house rules, Sharp is also working to bolster protection for trade secrets and to prevent unauthorized disclosure of production technologies and manufacturing know-how, particularly those that are unique or critically important to Sharp.

Further, counterfeit Sharp-brand products have had a growing impact in overseas markets in recent years, and Sharp is taking measures to counter these imitations through cooperation with industry groups and with regulatory authorities taking enforcement actions.

With regard to respect for the intellectual property rights of others, Sharp is responding by holding company-wide conferences for persons involved with patents and by training of engineers.



 [Incentives for employee inventions](#)