

1. Introduction

The “Specific Household Appliance Recycling Law” (the Home Electric Appliance Recycling Law) became effective on April 1, 2001. NKK Trienekens Co. was founded to carry out this recycling business and contribute toward the building of a resource recycling society. At present, investment in NKK Trienekens Co. is 30% NKK Corp., 40% Mitsui & Co., Ltd., 20% Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd., 5% Nippon Express Co., Ltd., and 5% Sankyu Inc.

The Home Electric Appliance Recycling Law requires electrical appliance manufacturers to recycle four kinds of electrical appliances (refrigerators, washing machines, TV sets, and air conditioners). Electrical appliance manufacturers may either carry out the recycling business themselves or subcontract it to another company. NKK Trienekens Co. carries out this business on behalf of electrical appliance manufacturers.

The facilities for this business have operated smoothly since April of this year, even though the number of appli-

Business for Old Electrical Appliances Commences

Plastics are recovered to the utmost extent in all of the manual dismantling operations for use as a raw material for the blast furnace.

After manual dismantling, the residuals are put into a crushing machine and sorted mechanically.

After sorting by air, urethane from refrigerator insulation is compressed and then used as a raw material for the blast furnace. Chlorofluorocarbon from urethane heat insulation is used as a foaming agent. In our plant, after deaeration, the chlorofluorocarbon is adsorbed and recovered by a foaming agent recovery system using activated carbon. This system contributes to protection of the ozone

Business for Old Electrical Appliances Commences

The recycling ratio for the four appliances is currently 55% or more for TV sets, 50% or more for refrigerators, 50% or more for washing machines, and 60% or more for air conditioners. However, recycling ratios as high as 90% or more will be achieved in the next phase by incorporat-