About the YKK Group

Expanding Business with a Six-Region Global Management Structure

The YKK Group currently does business in 71 countries/regions worldwide based on a geographical management structure divided into six blocs—1) North and Central America, 2) South America, 3) Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA), 4) China, 5) Asia, and 6) Japan. This regional approach enables us to adapt to the characteristics of each region to further expand our businesses.

YKK GROUP

Principal Businesses
Manufacture and sale of fastening products, architectural products, precision machinery, equipment and molds

Affiliated Companies Worldwide
108 in 71 countries/regions
  Japan: 20 companies
  Overseas: 88 companies

Number of Employees
40,708 (Japan: 17,229; Overseas: 23,479)
(As of March 31, 2014)

Global Management Plus Fastening Products Business and Architectural Products Business

The YKK Group management structure is global. Manufacturing is done by the Fastening Products and Architectural Products Business Groups backed by engineering and support provided by the Machinery and Engineering Group. Worldwide sales, marketing, and customer service are handled by our six geographical block organizations.

Contributing to the Creation of a Sustainable Society (YKK Corporation)

YKK Corporation manufactures and sells products that are part of everyday life. Aware that our products must be responsive not only to the needs of our industrial customers but also to those of the consumers who ultimately use them, we place great importance on delivering products that add value to the clothing and other goods that our customers make.

Pursuing Innovation at All Stages, from Design to Manufacturing (YKK AP Inc.)

YKK AP Inc. is aiming to create business value suited to the times and to provide advanced amenities for modern living and urban spaces. Our operations center on windows and doors that help create comfortable dwelling spaces, building facades that help beautify the urban landscape and other architectural products.
In the 80 years since its founding, YKK has won the confidence of customers for its fastening products worldwide thanks to its stringent quality control and solid supply structure. YKK’s uncompromising pursuit of quality encompasses a commitment to safety and trust in tandem with a focus on product performance.

Uncompromising Pursuit of Safety and Trust

Building a Responsible Supply Chain

Enhancing Customer Confidence in YKK Quality by Highlighting Our Commitment to Safety and Legal Compliance

In today’s apparel industry, garment suppliers are being asked to prove the soundness of their manufacturing and sourcing processes in the face of growing concerns about the potential health risks posed by residues from hazardous substances used in production as well as the poor working conditions that often prevail in developing countries. Accordingly, YKK aims not only to deliver superior quality, function and design, but also to ensure the supply of safe products with no hazardous substance content while completely renouncing inappropriate manufacturing processes and labor practices and encouraging its suppliers to join in its initiatives to achieve these aims.

In 2007, we launched a system enabling us to quickly track products’ chemical content. Moreover, in 2013, we launched a system to confirm suppliers’ environmental, human rights and labor practices. By expanding the scope of integrated quality management to cover the entire manufacturing process beginning with procurement, we seek to further deepen the confidence our customers have in our brand.

Promoting a Low-Energy Lifestyle

Windows are the key housing components affecting the indoor environment. While being the primary cause of heat gain or loss, they also let light and air into a structure. Fully utilizing these qualities, YKK AP seeks to create better dwelling spaces as it aims to promote a low-energy lifestyle that allows people to live comfortably while using less energy.

From Windows and Doors to Curtain Walls—Supporting Comfortable Living while Pursuing Eco-Friendliness

Contributing to a Sustainable Society by Delivering Products That Create Better Dwelling Spaces

In response to the growing demand for energy-saving housing and other buildings, YKK AP is developing high-insulation windows, such as windows with vinyl frames, and curtain walls capable of helping buildings save energy.

YKK AP also focuses on reducing environmental burdens from construction, through such means as its non-welding installation method for window sashes. Moreover, the YKK AP brand is gaining increasing recognition overseas for its effort to match products and services to local climates and market needs.

In addition, to help create a recycling-oriented society, YKK AP is promoting 3R initiatives, namely, the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste. As such, we are striving to contribute to the sustainable development of society by pursuing innovations in both product development and manufacturing processes.
The Machinery and Engineering Group supplies machinery specialized for the Fastening Products and Architectural Products business groups to YKK Group factories all over the world by developing materials, machinery and equipment in addition to manufacturing machinery parts and the components of machinery and equipment.

While strengthening our elemental technology for specialized machinery, we are introducing leading technologies from other companies and institutes.

Since fiscal 2013, we have been developing a facility design that will cut energy use by 20%. Moreover, looking five to ten years into the future, we are pushing forward the automation of production processes for greater efficiency. We thereby seek to create a production system that will remain competitive in Japan and overseas.

With this in mind, we are rebuilding a half-century old machine part manufacturing facility, aiming to create a new plant by the end of fiscal 2015 that will kick off operations in fiscal 2016. Once completed, the new plant will contribute to the reduction of energy use while ensuring the stable supply of precision machine parts.

The Core of Our Technological Strength

The Machinery and Engineering Group contributes to the growth of the YKK Group from the aspects of both the development and manufacturing of machinery as the core of YKK Group technologies. The YKK Group has grown globally by developing an integrated production system that encompasses materials, manufacturing facilities and products.

Reinforcing the Group’s Competitiveness

Bolstering the Superior Product Quality and Cost Competitiveness of the Fastening and AP Businesses

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Achieving Growth by Embracing Workforce Diversity

With the principle of “Independence and Coexistence” as the foundation of human resources management, the YKK Group promotes the development of systems and the creation of environments that enable each and every employee to fully exhibit strengths in their entrusted role in accordance with their individual abilities and drive, and regardless of their age, gender, educational background, nationality, or disability.

Nurturing a Shinrin Group That Works Together to Create New Value

Allowing Everyone to Develop Their Strengths in Accordance with Their Individual Abilities

The concept of the Shinrin group (shinrin means forest in Japanese) has long served as the basis of the YKK Group’s human resources management. Our founder Tadao Yoshida once said, “YKK is a forest organization. In a forest, some trees are old and venerable, rich with experience and knowledge. And some trees are young, scarcely more than saplings. Some trees are tall, others are short. Each grows onward and upward in its own unique way. An organization is like a forest, full of power and vitality that can contribute to society.” To ensure that every employee is free to fully develop their potential, the YKK Group places emphasis on practicing a truly fair personnel system and providing employees with decent learning opportunities.