



# Product Safety



Incorporated Administrative Agency  
National Institute of Technology and Evaluation  
Life and Welfare Technology Center

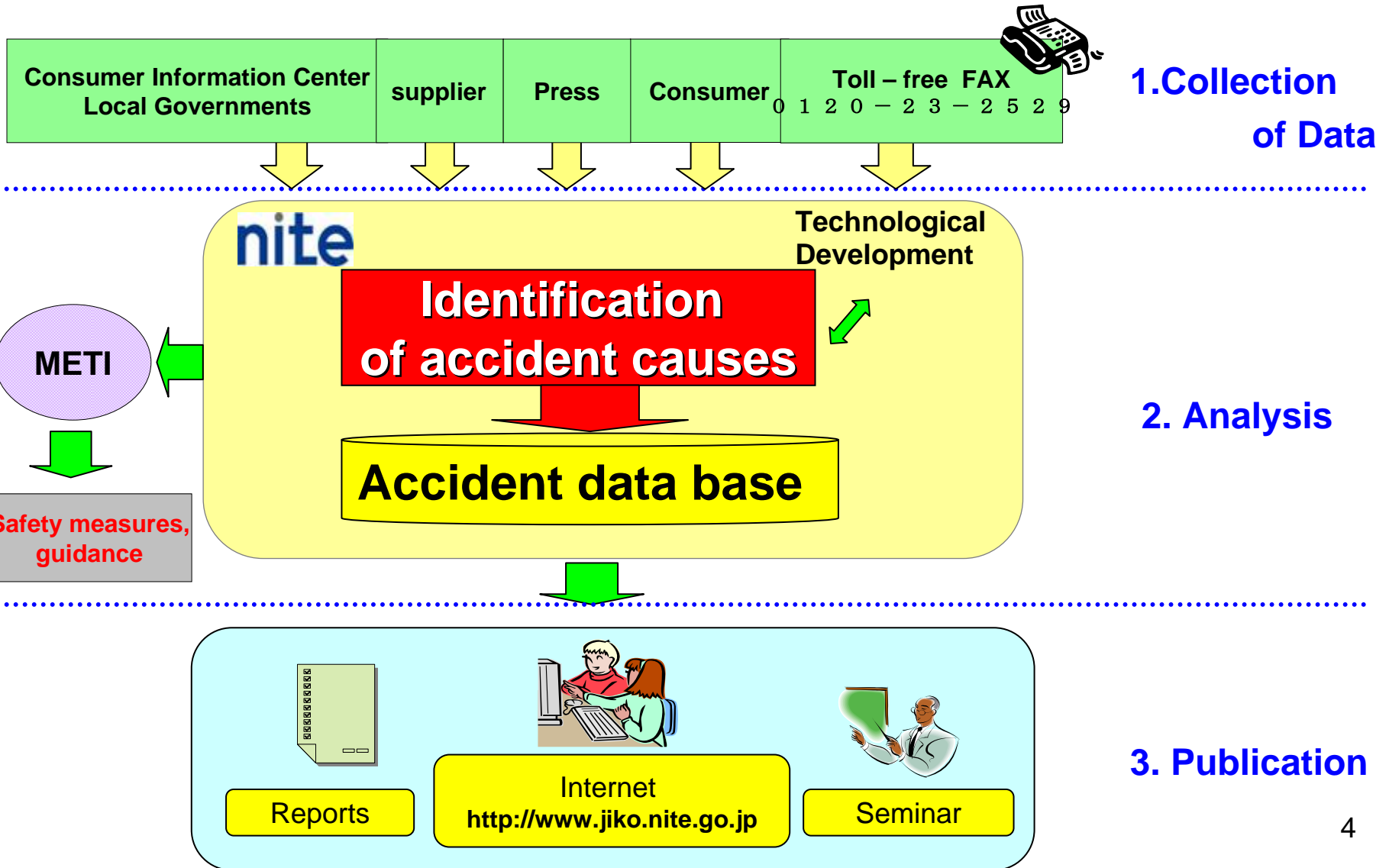
## ***What is NITE***

1. Incorporated Administrative Agency, close relation with METI
2. Actor in Product Safety with about 100 staffs of 10 regions all over Japan
3. Comprehensive activities starting from collection of accident information to publication.

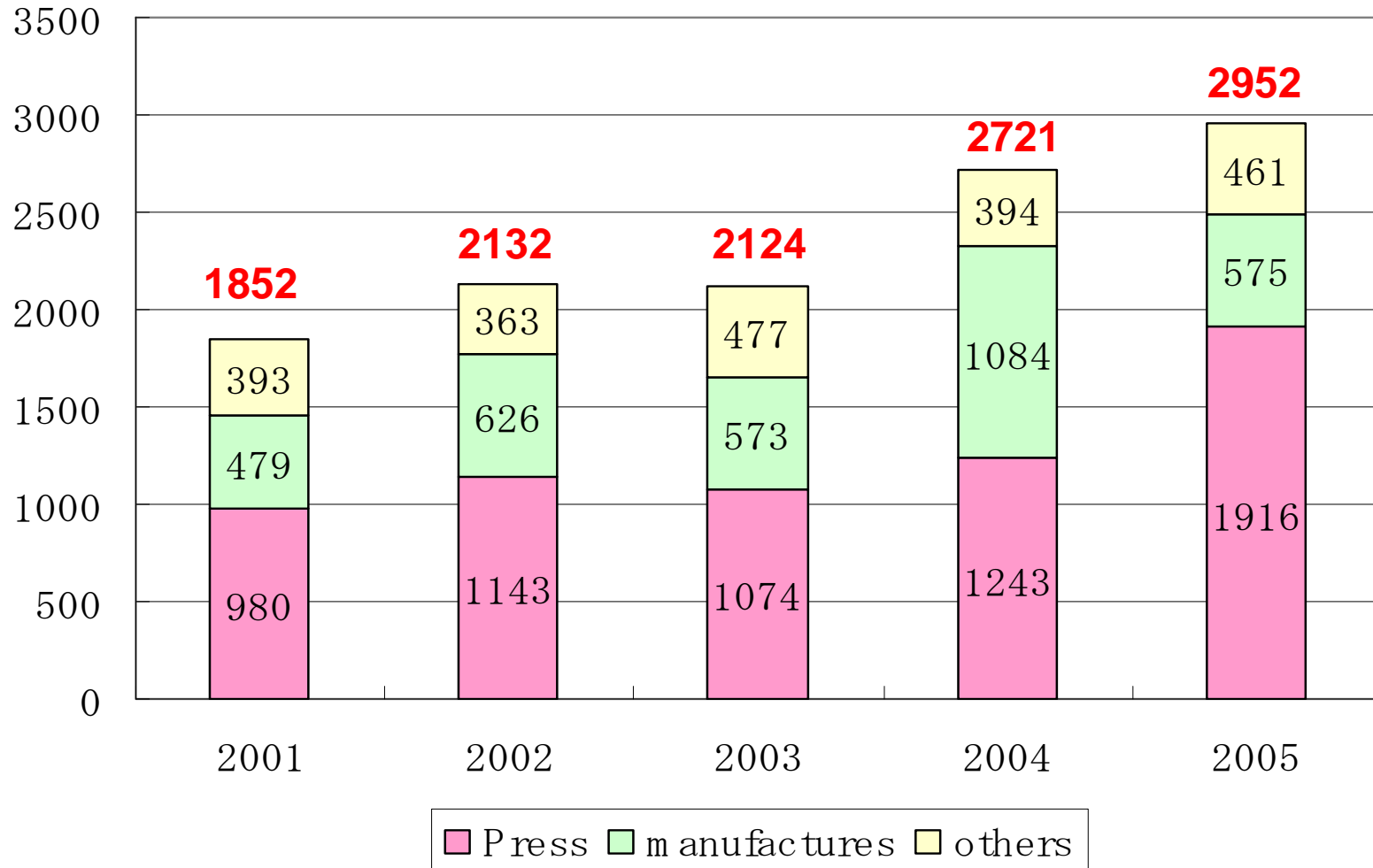
# Where is NITE



# How NITE contributes to Product Safety



# How much information dose NITE collect?

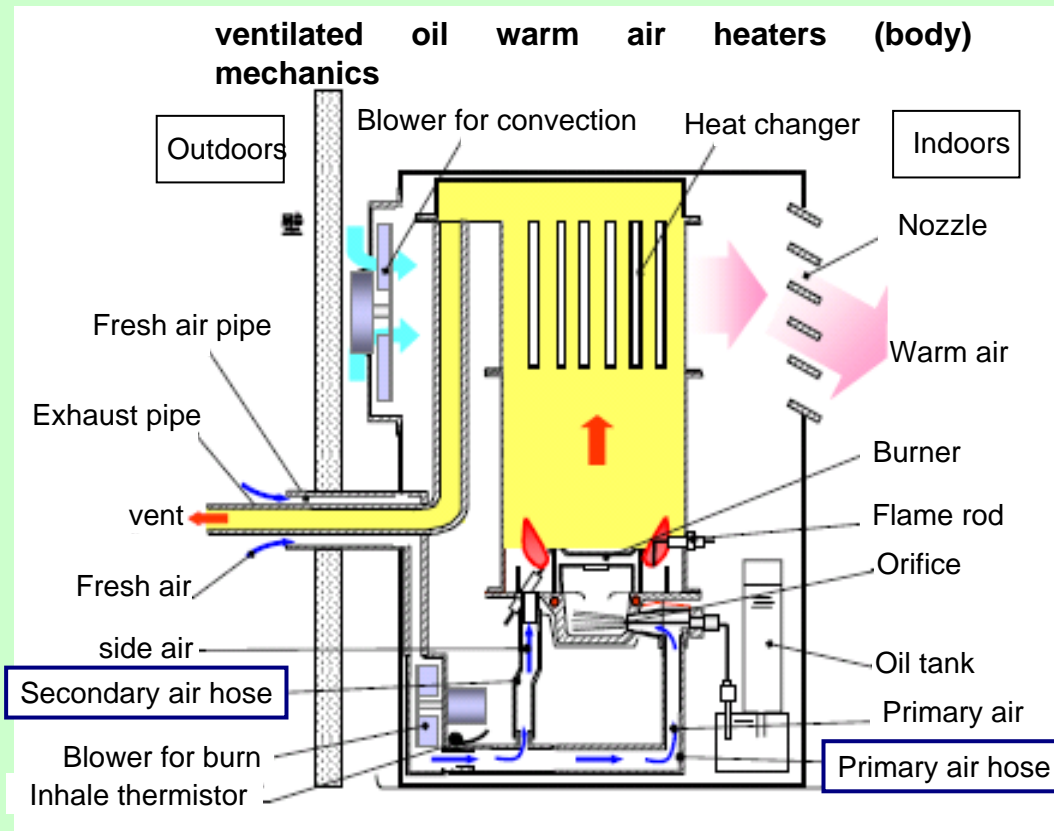


# How does NITE analyze cases

## - Ventilated oil warm air heater -

**Accident: Death or casualties because of carbon monoxide poisoning**

**Suffering: 2 deaths and 7 severe/minor injuries were reported (July 2006)**



The causes of accidents are presumed as follows: Long-term use of the heater deteriorated the surface of secondary rubber-made air pipe, it was twisted at the installation and the structure accelerated ozone-aided oxidization in the heated environment, thus finally cracks and developing into the openings. Exhaust gas that contains carbon monoxide under some conditions flew backward and leaked through the openings.

**Emergency order was issued  
by METI  
For the first time in the history**

Secondary air hose



# What kind of facilities does NITE possess?



Environment Test Room with recording systems



Fluoroscope



Infrared Spectrophotometer



Microscopes



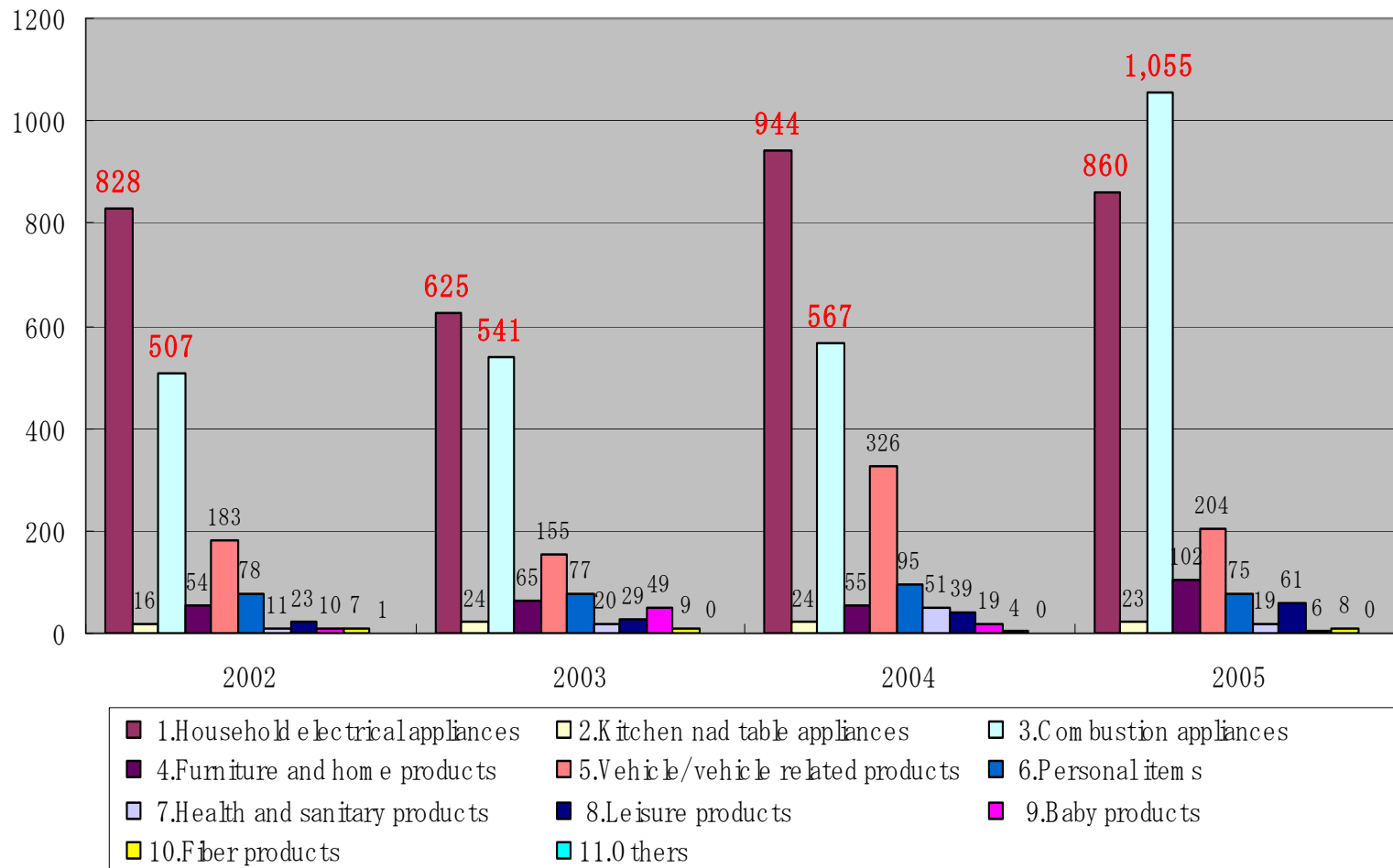
Thermal Analyzer



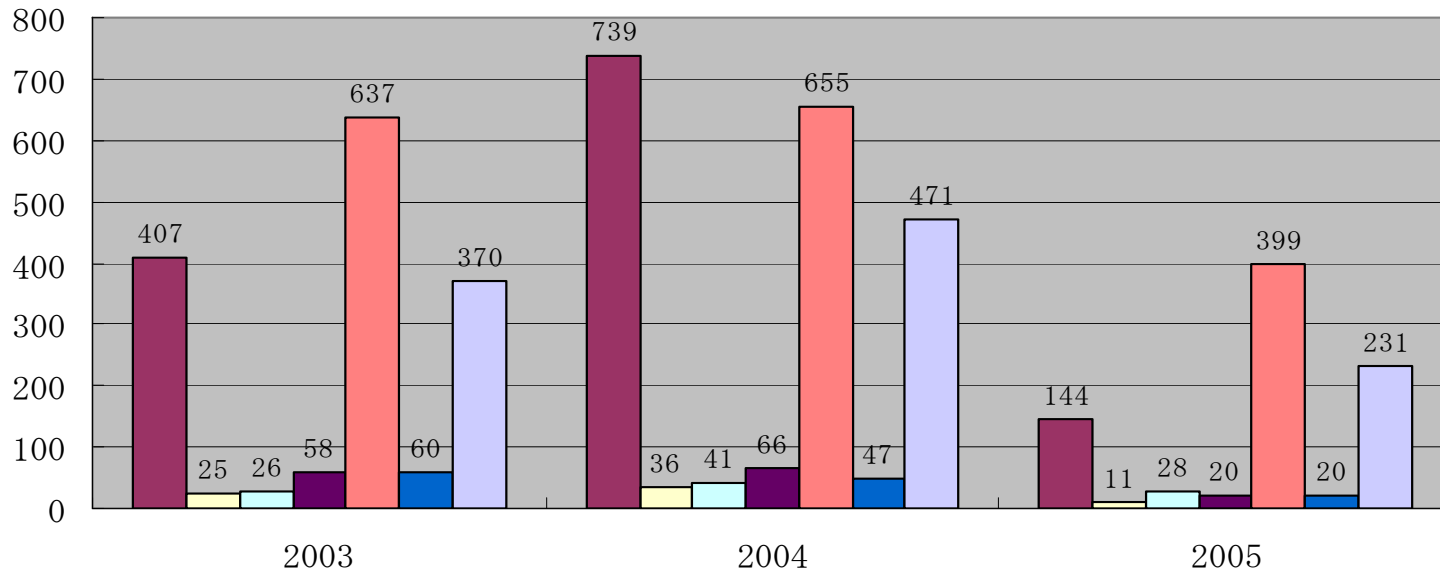
GC/MS Gas Chromatography

# What can NITE say from the data?

## 1. The number of information by product classification

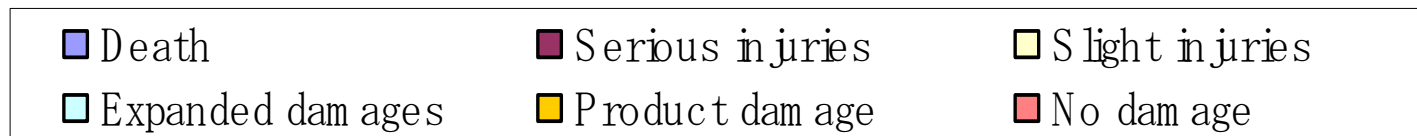
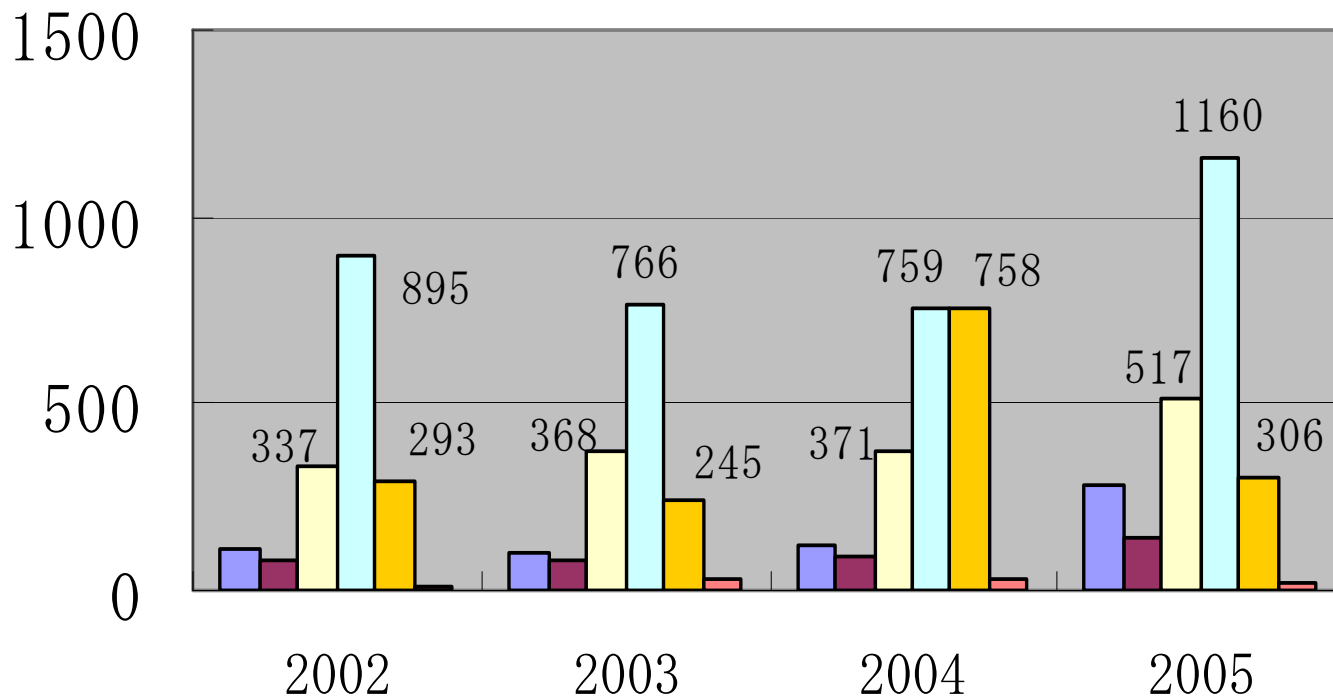


## 2. Yearly transition of accident notification by causes of accidents

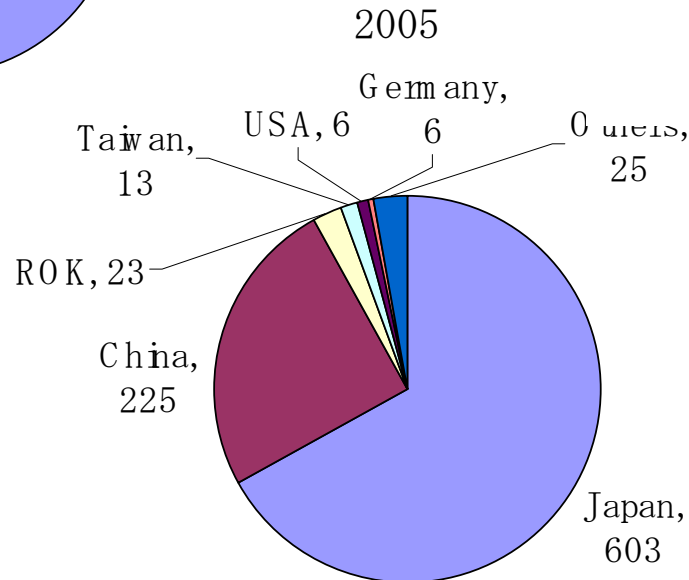
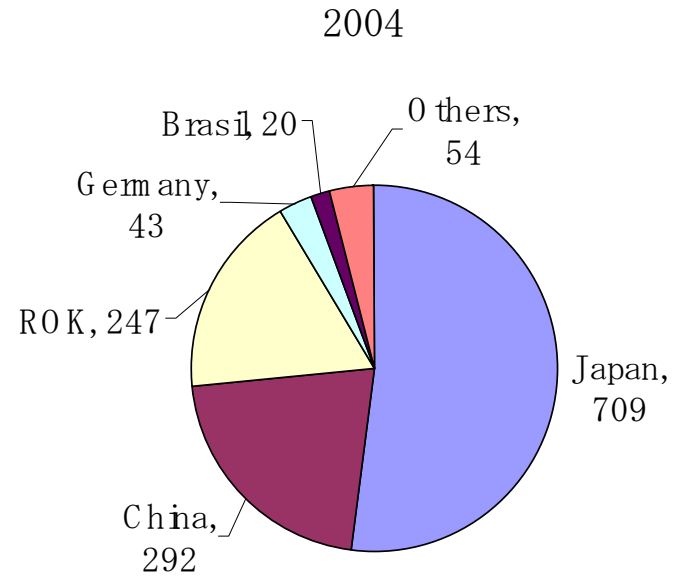
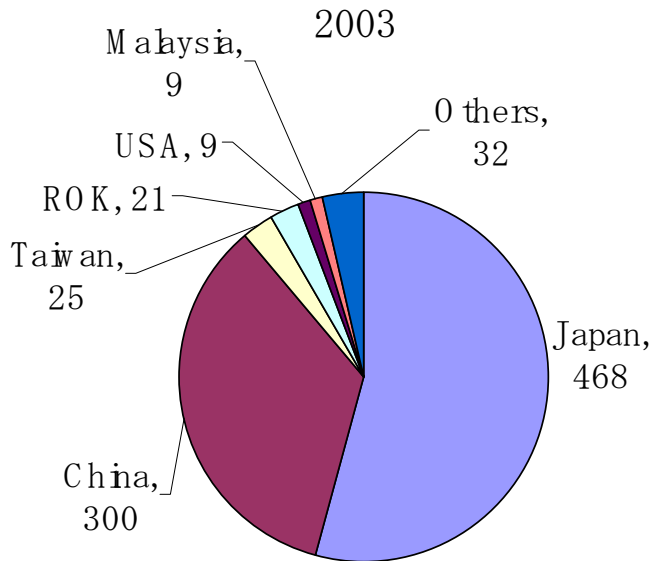


- Accidents supposedly caused by problems of design, manufacturing, marking, etc
- Accidents supposedly caused by problems of products themselves and affected by use conditions
- Accidents supposedly caused by performance due to extended periods after manufacturing and long duration of operation
- Accidents supposedly caused by works/repairs by manufacturers or handling in transportation, etc
- Accidents mainly due to misuse or negligence
- Other accidents not caused by products
- Accidents with unknown causes

### 3. The number of accident information by damage

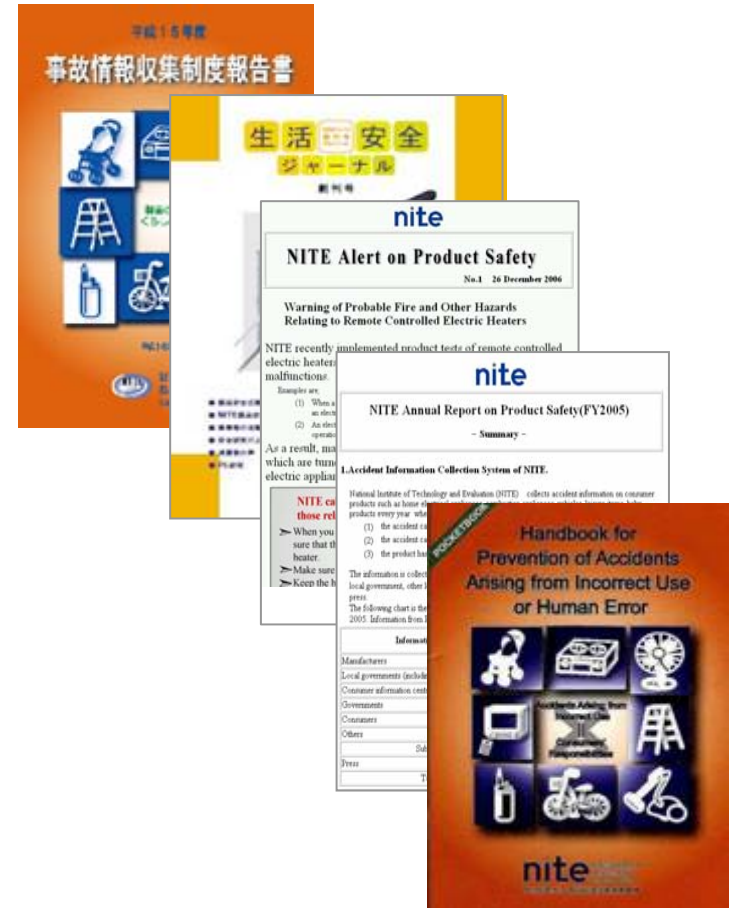


# 4. The number of accident information by countries (the worst five)



# What reports does NITE publish?

1. Annual Reports
2. Seasonal Journal
3. Special News (NITE Alert)
4. E-Mail Magazine
5. Educational Handbooks
6. Web Page (<http://www.jiko.nite.go.jp>)



➡ Easy access to the above publications and Accident Data Base

# *Recent Topics*

# 1. Test and Warning

- Remote controlled Electric Heater
- Foot warmer designed to be heated by microwave
- Desk pad
- Paper Shredder
- Instantaneous water heaters

# Remote controlled Electric Heater

**Accident: Remote controlled electric heater switched on by itself**



**NITE tested 13 brands**

1. 2 brands malfunctioned such as switching-on by using a remote controller for other electric appliances.
2. 4 brands malfunctioned by noise .

**METI and NITE called on consumers to pay attention to use remote controlled electric heaters.**

# Foot warmer designed to be heated by microwave

Accident: Scald



**NITE tested 14 brands**

As for several brands, the container exploded or the contents leaked from the package caused by overheating by a microwave .

**NITE called on consumers to pay attention to use foot warmers according to the instruction manual.**

# Desk Pad

**Accident:** allergic contact dermatitis



**NITE identified the chemical which could develop an allergy with the assistance of the hospital.**

2,3,5,6-Tetrachloro-4-(methylsulfonyl) pyridine

**NITE called on consumers to pay attention to stop using the product.**

# Paper Shredder

## Accident: Amputation of children's



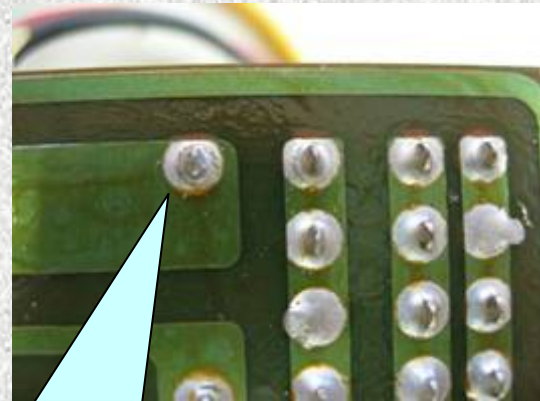
**METI and NITE announced these two accidents and alerted consumers to use a shredder without a child around them and to keep a shredder away from a child.**

METI ordered two associations (one is Japan Business Machine and Information System Industries Association and another is All Japan Stationery Association) to consider effective means for preventing recurrence of accidents.

METI is also discussing the revision of the technical standards about a shredder.

# Instantaneous water heaters

**Accident: Carbon monoxide poisoning**



soldering crack

**NITE confirmed how products recalled by manufactures got broken and were modified.**

**Emergency order was issued by METI**

## 2. Amendment of Consumer Product Safety Law

by METI

### Background

A series of product accidents having caused serious injury or death in Japan. (ex. Instantaneous water heater, Paper shredder)

### Purpose


To prevent the similar and successive product-related accidents.

### Contents

- 1) Manufacturers/Importers shall make a report of serious accident to METI, immediately when they know the fact.
- 2) The Minister shall announce the name of the product and outline of the accident.
- 3) Manufacturers/Importers shall take necessary measures, when required.
- 4) The Minister may dispatch an urgent order to prevent the accident.
- 5) Violator shall be fined or imprisoned.

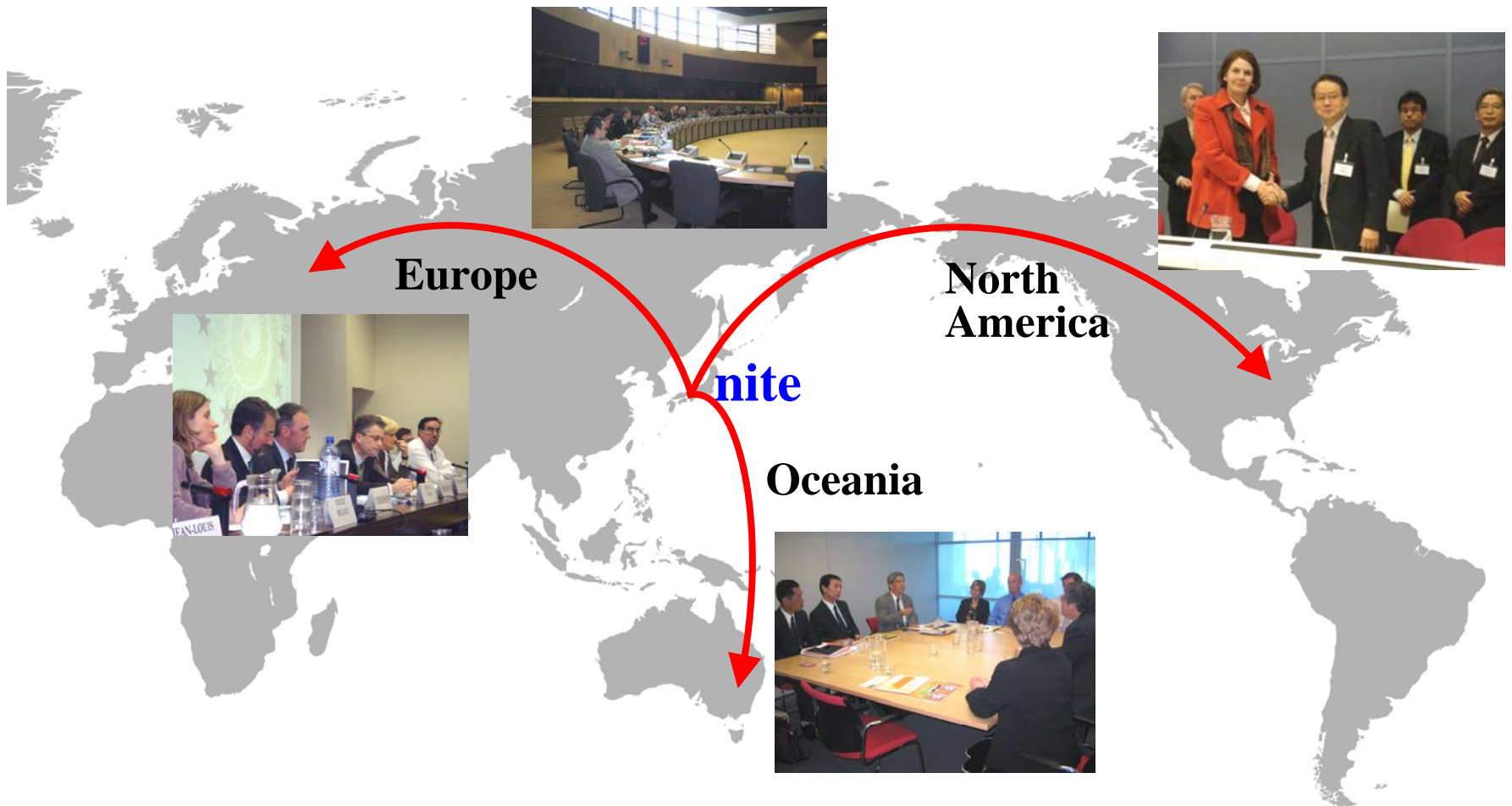
**Serious Accident** : death, serious injury, CO poisoning, fire

**Schedule** : Now preparation for submitting form  
This spring it comes in force



**NITE** will work for the New Reporting System with METI, and it continues and expands its activities in data collection of other type of accidents.

### 3. International Activities of NITE



**Thank you very much!**

***Good nite***