

Japan Vilene's 45-Year History

Japan Vilene started operations in 1960 as a dedicated manufacturer of nonwoven fabrics. The Company was established as a joint venture between three companies: Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc., Germany's Freudenberg Group, and Toray Industries, Inc. Proud of our position as a leading company in nonwoven materials, we are committed to raising customer satisfaction and fulfilling our corporate social responsibilities. We look to the future with confidence and a spirit of challenge that has driven us since our foundation.

1960~

June 1, 1960: Japan Vilene Company, Ltd., established

September 1960: Osaka Office (now Osaka Branch) opens; Company begins selling apparel interlining, air filters, and shoe materials imported from Carl Freudenberg of West Germany

October 1961: Construction of Shiga Factory completed; Production of **apparel interlinings** commences at **Shiga Factory**



April 1962: Manufacture of **air filters** and liquid filters begins

June 1962: Manufacture of



electrical insulation materials and FRP base materials begins



July 1963: Production of **bonded waddings** begins



June 1964: Fully domestic production of electrical insulation materials begins

April 1965: Develops fully adhesive interlining

July 1965: Manufacture of shoe and bag materials begins

March 1969: Manufacture of **battery separators** begins

1970~

March 1970: Starts selling car floor mats

May 1970: Listed on Second Section of Tokyo Stock Exchange

May 1970: "Thousand Brides Show," featuring dresses made of Japan Vilene's nonwoven fabric, is held at Osaka Expo



April 1971: Enters the market for medical disposables (including masks and pads)

July 1972: Construction of **Tokyo Factory** completed



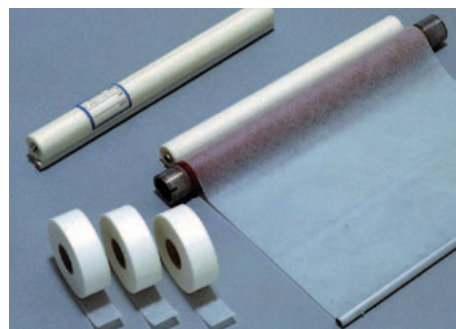
December 1973: Jointly develops **car floor mats** with Hiroshima Kasei, Ltd.; such floors mats are adopted as genuine products for Toyota vehicles



1980~

October 1980: Freudenberg & Vilene International Ltd. established in Hong Kong

1981: Develops **cleaning roll for copiers**



May 1983: Nagoya Office (now Nagoya Branch) opens

May 1983: VIAM Manufacturing, Inc., established in U.S.A.

November 1983: Head office moves to Soto-Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

March 1984: Listed on First Section of Tokyo Stock Exchange

June 1985: Pacific Giken Company Limited established

December 1987: Cumulass Co., Ltd., established

November 1988: **X-800 series of disposable dust masks** receives national government certification



May 1989: Freudenberg & Vilene Nonwovens (Taiwan) Co., Ltd., established in Taiwan

November 1989: Head office moves to newly completed Vilene Building.

1990~

June 1990: Central Research Laboratory completed



February 1995: Freudenberg & Vilene Nonwovens (Suzhou) Co., Ltd., established in China



February & March 1995: Tokyo and Shiga factories obtain ISO9002 certification for quality management systems

March 1996: Tokyo and Shiga factories receive ISO9001 certification for quality management systems

January 1997: Freudenberg Vitec Ltd. Partnership established in U.S.A.

June 1997: Acquires Oyama Chemical Co., Ltd., which becomes wholly owned subsidiary in Japan



March 1998: Starts selling woven fabric interlining

March 1998: Shiga Factory obtains ISO14001 certification for environmental management systems

April 1998: Tokyo Factory obtains ISO14001 certification for environmental management systems

October 1998: Korea Vilene Co., Ltd., established in Korea



November 1998: VIAM (TN) Ltd. Partnership established in U.S.A.



2000~

December 2001: Korea Filtertek Co., Ltd., established in Korea

March 2002: Cogeneration system introduced in Tokyo Factory



July 2002: Shanghai Representative Office opened in China

July 2003: Malaysia Representative Office opened in Malaysia

October 2003: Integrated Vilene Create Co., Ltd.

April 2004: Freudenberg & Vilene Filter (Changchun) Co., Ltd., established in China

September 2004: Tianjin VIAM Automotive Products Co., Ltd., established in China

January 2005: Launches Ecoalpha series of environmentally friendly air filters

April 2005: Hong Kong-based Freudenberg & Vilene International acquires Chinese woven fabric interlining maker



Origin of "Vilene" name

The Freudenberg Group, with whom Japan Vilene has various technological and business alliances, offers a line of nonwoven products under such brand names as **Vilene**® and **Vlieseline**® ("Vlieseline" is derived from "vlies", meaning "fleece" in German.) Because "Vlieseline" is difficult to pronounce in Japanese, its English equivalent, "Vilene," was chosen for our company name.