

Independent Assurance Report



Mr. Takashige Negishi
President and Representative Director
Yakult Honsha Co.,Ltd.

We, SOCOTEC Certification Japan (hereafter "SOCOTEC"), have performed a limited assurance engagement, in relation to Yakult Honsha Co.,Ltd. (hereafter the "Company") in order to provide an opinion as to whether the subject matter information ("FY2019 GHG Calculation Report"(period: 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020)) of the Company meets the criteria in all material respects.

1 Subject Matter Information and Criteria

The subject matter information for our assurance is "a report on energy-derived greenhouse gas emissions (Scope1,Scope 2 (location-based and market-based))" covering the operations and activities of the Company, its consolidated companies in Japan (five domestic bottling subsidiaries) and Specified Consigners described in "FY2019 GHG Calculation Report"(period: 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020).

The criteria for preparing subject matter information is "GHG Calculation Rule (Ver1.1)".

Subject matter information			
GHG emission date			
1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020			
Energy-derived GHG emissions			
Scope 1:	37,838	t-CO ₂ e	
Scope 2: location-based	46,051	t-CO ₂ e	
market-based	45,762	t-CO ₂ e	

2 Management Responsibility

"FY2019 GHG Calculation Report"(period: 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020) was prepared by the management of the Company, who is responsible for the integrity of the assertions, statements, and claims made therein (including the assertions over which we have been engaged to provide limited assurance), the collection, quantification and presentation of all data and information in the report, and applied criteria, analysis and publication.

The management of the Company is responsible for maintaining adequate records and internal controls that are designed to support the reporting process and ensure that "FY2019 GHG Calculation Report"(period: 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020) is free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

3 Assurance Practitioner's Responsibility

The responsibility of SOCOTEC is to express a limited assurance conclusion as to whether the subject matter information has been prepared in compliance with the criteria in all material respects.

SOCOTEC performed limited assurance engagement in accordance with the verification procedures stipulated by SOCOTEC and "ISO14064-3: Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of greenhouse gas assertions".

The procedures implemented in the limited assurance engagement are limited in their type, timing and scope as compared to the procedures implemented in the reasonable assurance engagement. As a result, our limited assurance engagement does not provide as high assurance as reasonable assurance engagement.

The procedures performed depend on the assurance professional practitioner's judgement, including the risk of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our conclusion was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

We believe that we have obtained the evidence to provide a basis for the conclusion for limited assurance.

4 Assurance Procedures

The procedures that SOCOTEC has conducted are based on professional judgment and include, but are not limited to:

- Evaluation of policies and procedures created by the Company in relation to subject matter information
- Questions to Company personnel to understand the above policies and procedures
- Verification that the target project meets eligibility requirements
- Matching with the basis data by trial calculation and recalculation
- Obtaining and collating material for important assumptions and other data
- We conducted verification procedures for Head office, Fukushima Plant and Yakult Central Institute of the Company by a sampling method, in order to confirm the calculation structure and procedures, data collection and implementation status of record control.

5 Statement of Our Independence, Quality Control and Competence

SOCOTEC has introduced and maintained a comprehensive management system that conforms to the accreditation requirements of "ISO17021 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems". In addition, we have also established a management system according to "ISO14065 Greenhouse gases – Requirements for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation or other forms of recognition". These meet the requirements of "International Standard on Quality Control 1" by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and "Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants" by IESBA (*1). We maintain a comprehensive quality control system that includes ethical rules, professional standards and documented policies and procedures for compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The SOCOTEC Group is a comprehensive third-party organisation in inspection, testing and certification operations, and conducts management system certification services and training services related to quality, environment, labour and information security in countries around the world. Engaged in performance data and sustainability report assurance of environmental and social information, SOCOTEC affirms that it is independent of the organisation that has ordered the assurance engagement, its affiliated companies, and stakeholders, and that there is no possibility of impairing impartiality or conflict of interest.

We assure that the team engaged in the assurance is selected based on knowledge, experience in the relevant industry, and the competence requirements for this assurance engagement.

6 Use of Report

Our responsibility in performing our limited assurance activities is to the management of the company only in accordance with the terms for this engagement as agreed with the Company. We do not therefore assume any responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person or organisation.

7 Our Conclusion

On the basis of our procedures performed and evidence obtained nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the subject matter information is not, in all material respects, prepared and reported in accordance with the stated criteria.

SOCOTEC Certification Japan



Seigo Futaba
Managing Director
31 March 2021

*1: International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants