

Independent review

[translation from Japanese]

Asahi Kasei Group Sustainability Report 2021 Internet Edition Independent Review

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Hideki Kobori
President
Asahi Kasei Corporation

Ozaki Satoshi
Chief Director
Responsible Care Verification Center
Japan Chemical Industry Association

Objectives of Verification

Responsible Care Report Verification was performed by the Responsible Care Verification Center with respect to *the Asahi Kasei Group Sustainability Report 2021 Internet Edition* (the "Report") prepared by Asahi Kasei Corporation, with the objective of expressing an opinion as a chemical industry specialist on the matters as stated below.

- 1) Reasonableness of methods of calculation and aggregation of performance metrics (numerical values), and the accuracy of numerical values.
- 2) Accuracy of reported information other than numerical values.
- 3) Evaluation of Responsible Care (RC) and sustainability activities.
- 4) Characteristics of the Report.

Verification Procedure

- At the head office: Examination of the reasonableness and accuracy of methods to aggregate numerical values reported from each site (branch, production site, etc.), and examination of the accuracy of reported information other than numerical values were performed through interviews of responsible parties and compilers of the Report as well as receipt of internal documents and explanations thereof from each of the responsible parties and compilers, with both in-person meetings and online meetings.
- Verification for the Oita Site of Asahi Kasei Medical Co., Ltd. (hereinafter the Oita Site) was conducted via web conference between the Asahi Kasei head office and the Oita Site, and accuracy of the numerical values and information other than numerical values, reported to the head office, were examined. The survey was performed at the site through interviews of responsible parties and compilers of the Report, receipt of internal documents and explanations thereof from each of the responsible parties and compilers, a cross-check of reported information with supporting materials, and confirmation of on-site photos.
- Numerical values and reported information were verified by sampling.

Opinion

- 1) Reasonableness of methods of calculation and aggregation of performance metrics (numerical values); accuracy of numerical values

- Calculation and aggregation of numerical values at the head office and the Oita Site are performed using a reasonable method, and an RC Performance Data Collection System is used throughout the company for accurate and efficient aggregation of data.
- Numerical values within the scope of our examination have been calculated and aggregated accurately.

2) Accuracy of reported information other than numerical values

- Information contained in the Report was confirmed to be accurate. Some minor issues related to appropriateness of expression and ease of understanding were identified in the draft stages, but these have been revised in the present Report.

3) Evaluation of RC and Sustainability Activities

- I highly commend the President for explaining in his own words our ideal state for 2050 at the Sustainability Briefing for the media and investors in 2020, and for declaring in May 2021 the company's goal to be carbon neutral by 2050.
- I commend each department for promoting the creation of environmental contribution products based on their excellent technologies to achieve their initiatives for attaining a decarbonized society and a recycling-oriented society.
- I commend the clear statement of the relationship between key management issues and the SDGs, the departments in charge, and the indicators used to measure their success, and the activities of all departments, including staff departments in addition to business departments, as they work toward achieving the SDGs.
- I commend the entire Group for establishing the Life Saving Actions program in 2020 as a safety program to protect their own and others' lives, and for initiating a full-scale launch in 2021. I hope that this program will have a significant effect on preventing occupational accidents.
- While group education and meetings cannot be held due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I commend the company for using creative methods to continue its activities, such as conducting training sessions online, holding the RC Symposium online (attended by 2,300 people), and providing on-site classes online.
- At the Oita Plant, measures to improve intrinsic safety and safeguards against major risks have been implemented, such as (1) upgrading product removal robots and (2) changing the piping material used at hydrochloric acid neutralization facilities. I am very impressed with these efforts.

4) Characteristics of the Report

- I commend the creation of a new page on "The Direction of Sustainability Toward 2050" to clearly indicate the course the Group is taking.
- In line with stakeholder requests, an indication of SDG issues related to materiality, the Contribution through Business Activities page, the ESG Survey Index page, and the ESG page have been newly added, making it easier for readers to understand.