


TOP MESSAGE	Materiality	2024—2026 Medium-term Business Plan	Stakeholder Engagement	Progress on Sustainability Goals	Environment	Society	Governance	External Assessment	Sustainability Bond Reporting	Sustainability Data
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External Assessment → Third-Party Assurance

Third-Party Assurance

Independent assurance statement



LRQA Independent Assurance Statement

Relating to J. Front Retailing Co., Ltd.'s Environmental and Social Data for the Fiscal Year 2023

This Assurance Statement has been prepared for J. Front Retailing Co., Ltd. in accordance with our contract.

Terms of engagement

LRQA Limited ("LRQA") was commissioned by J. Front Retailing Co., Ltd. ("the Company") to provide independent assurance on its environmental and social data within its Integrated Report 2024 and Sustainability Report 2024 ("the reports") for the fiscal year 2023 (1/3/2023-29/02/2024), against the assurance criteria below to a limited level of assurance and the materiality of the professional judgement of the verifier using ISAE3000(Revised)/ISO14064-3:2019 for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Our assurance engagement covered the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries' operations and activities in Japan and overseas and specifically the following requirements:

- Verifying conformance with the Company's reporting methodologies
- Evaluating the accuracy and reliability of data for the selected indicators listed below:¹

Environmental indicators:^{2 3}

- Energy usage (MWh)
- Renewable energy usage (MWh)
- Scope 1 GHG emissions (tonnes CO₂e)⁴
- Scope 2 GHG emissions [Market-based]⁵ [Location-based] (tonnes CO₂e)
- Scope 3 GHG emissions (tonnes CO₂e)
- Amount of water use (m³) and amount of waste water (m³)
- Amount of waste generation (tonnes), recycled waste (tonnes) and finally disposed waste (tonnes)⁶
- Amount of food waste generation (tonnes), recycled food waste (tonnes) and finally disposed food waste (tonnes)

Social indicators:

- Share of female employees (%)
- Employment rate of disabled people (%)
- Number of employees who took child care leave (person)
- Female return rate after childcare leave (%)
- Paternity leave usage rate (%)
- Number of occupational fatal accidents (person)

Our assurance engagement excluded the data and information of the Company's suppliers, contractors and any third-parties mentioned in the report.

LRQA's responsibility is only to the Company. LRQA disclaims any liability or responsibility to others as explained in the end footnote. The Company's responsibility is for collecting, aggregating, analysing and presenting all the data and information within the report and for maintaining effective internal controls over the systems from which the report is derived. Ultimately, the report has been approved by, and remains the responsibility of the Company.

LRQA's Opinion

Based on LRQA's approach nothing has come to our attention that would cause us to believe that the Company has not, in all material respects:

- Met the requirements of the criteria listed above
- Disclosed accurate and reliable environmental and social data

¹ LRQA undertook a limited assurance engagement of the environmental and social data marked with "✓" within its Integrated Report 2024 and Sustainability Report 2024.
² GHG quantification is subject to inherent uncertainty.
³ LRQA also reviewed the company's Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 data over time for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.
⁴ Fluorocarbons are counted for the administrative fiscal year (April 1 2023 to March 31 2024).
⁵ Market based for the sites inside Japan and location based for the sites outside Japan
⁶ Including food waste



The opinion expressed is formed on the basis of a limited level of assurance¹ and at the materiality of the professional judgement of the verifier.

LRQA's Approach

LRQA's assurance engagements are carried out in accordance with ISAE 3000 (Revised) and ISO 14064-3:2019. The following tasks were undertaken as part of the evidence gathering process for this assurance engagement:

- Auditing the Company's data management systems to confirm that there were no significant errors, omissions or misstatements in the report. We did this by reviewing the effectiveness of data handling procedures, instructions and systems, including those for internal verification.
- Interviewing with those key people responsible for compiling the data and drafting the report.
- Sampling datasets and traced activity data back to aggregated levels;
- Verifying the environmental and social data and records of for the fiscal year 2023; and
- Visiting Fukuoka Tenjin of Hakata Daimaru Inc. and Fukuoka PARCO in Japan to confirm the data collection processes, record management practices, and to physically check their facilities.

Observations

The company is expected to achieve accurate and efficient data aggregation by utilizing the data aggregation system.

LRQA's Standards, Competence and Independence

LRQA implements and maintains a comprehensive management system that meets accreditation requirements for ISO 14065 Greenhouse gases – Requirements for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation or other forms of recognition and ISO 17021-1 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part1: Requirements that are at least as demanding as the requirements of the International Standard on Quality Control 1 and comply with the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants.

LRQA ensures the selection of appropriately qualified individuals based on their qualifications, training and experience. The outcome of all verification and certification assessments is then internally reviewed by senior management to ensure that the approach applied is rigorous and transparent.

This is the only work undertaken by LRQA for the Company and as such does not compromise our independence or impartiality.

Signed  Dated: 17 June 2024

Yoshinori Shibata
LRQA Lead Verifier
On behalf of LRQA Limited
10th Floor, Queen's Tower A, 2-3-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama, JAPAN
LRQA reference: YKA00000726

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¹ The extent of evidence-gathering for a limited assurance engagement is less than for a reasonable assurance engagement. Limited assurance engagements focus on aggregated data rather than physically checking source data at sites. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.

The environmental data contained in this report

- Energy consumption
- Renewable energy consumption
- Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions
- Water consumption
- Waste (amount generated, amount recycled, and amount for final disposal)
- Food waste (amount generated, amount recycled, and amount for final disposal)

and the social data

- Percentage of female managers
- Percentage of employees with a disability
- Number of employees taking childcare
- Return rate after childcare leave for female employees
- Percentage of male employees taking childcare leave
- Number of work-related deaths

...has obtained independent third-party assurance from LRQA Limited to ensure reliability.

