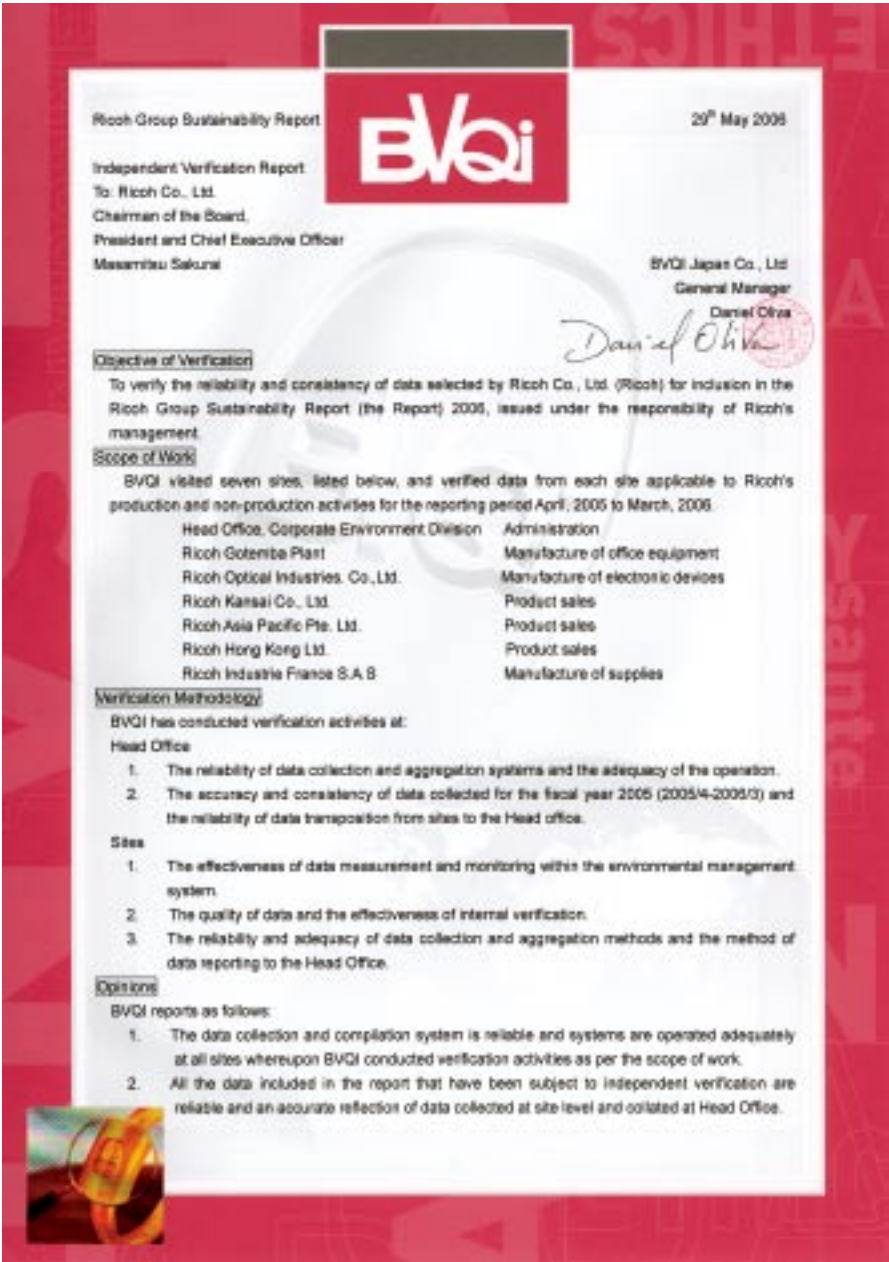


The Ricoh Group receives a third-party review of its environmental performance data and collection/aggregation system (Sustainable Environmental Management Information System). The related information is provided to stakeholders in the sustainability report (Environment). Furthermore, the results of this review are used to improve and advance sustainable environmental management. In fiscal 2004, the concept of system verification was introduced. System verification checks for consistency between data and whether the system effectively functions to collect/aggregate highly reliable data. The Ricoh Group continues to promote sustainable environmental management by using third-party reviews more effectively.

Reference View

BVQI has reported many findings and opinions through the data verification process at the head office and site level. BVQI has concluded the following :



1. Good Points

- The Eco Balance scheme advocated by Ricoh is an excellent method that quantitatively identifies the organization's overall environmental impact, using objective criteria. The scope under the coverage of the Eco Balance scheme is to further expand over time.
- Data from each sales company is reported to Head Office after being compiled at Marketing Group level. The protocol for the approach used in the Marketing Group is clear, ensuring that the collection and compilation of data is consistent and reliable.
- When a site needs to revise previously reported environmental data, the process works well in that the revision history approved by the relevant site is recorded on database and Head Office is always able to identify such revisions.
- It is commendable that whilst production is increasing, a target reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions is set. This is supported by definite measures for the systematic reduction of total emissions.

2. Follow-up on Issues from Sustainability Report 2005

- The reporting system has improved with the inclusion of the amount of by-product CF₄ recorded against greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, the globally recognized calculation method and conversion coefficient are applied, and the transparency and reliability of such disclosed figures are thus improved.
- Consumption tax information was erroneously included in calculation of the data for environmental accounting at a number of the sites this year, the same as for last year.

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3. Opportunities for Improvement

- In cases where significant variation is identified in data that is entered into the reporting system compared with the previous period (month or year), it would be preferable to establish a process that highlights this to the relevant staff, recording the cause of variation wherever possible.
- Classification and compilation criteria for environmental accounting are recognized differently across various sites. It is necessary to carry out such accounting operations in a consistent and equal at every site, conforming to a single set of criteria.
- The scope covered by Eco Balance scheme does in principle cover materials from their raw state to disposal of the used product, addressing specific consumption issues available in public. The reported figures are considered to be highly transparent and reliable. However, a part of specific consumptions, which are only after the importing of raw materials, is disclosed. As a result, the scheme is not able to align the scope of the considered data (a part of specific consumption). The reliability of data would be improved by updating and realigning the scope of the compiled data hereafter at the stage when the specific consumption reflected the pre-importing stage is available.