



# ASSURANCE STATEMENT

## **SGS UNITED KINGDOM LTD'S REPORT ON SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES IN THE 3663 FIRST FOR FOODSERVICE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2008 / 2009**

### **NATURE AND SCOPE THE ASSURANCE**

SGS United Kingdom Ltd was commissioned by 3663 First for Foodservice to conduct an independent assurance of the Sustainability Report 2008 / 2009. The scope of the assurance, based on the SGS Sustainability Report Assurance methodology, included the text, and data in accompanying tables, contained in this report.

The information in the Sustainability Report 2008 / 2009 of 3663 First for Foodservice and its presentation are the responsibility of the directors and the management of 3663 First for Foodservice, SGS United Kingdom Ltd has not been involved in the preparation of any of the material included in the Sustainability Report 2008 / 2009. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the text, data, graphs and statements within the scope of verification set out above.

The SGS Group has developed a set of protocols for the Assurance of Sustainability Reports based on best practice guidance provided in the Global Reporting Initiative Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (2006) and the AA1000 Assurance Standard (2003). These protocols follow differing levels of Assurance depending the reporting history and capabilities of the Reporting Organisation.

This report has been assured using our protocol for content veracity and evaluation against the Global Reporting Initiative GRI G3 (2006). The assurance comprised a combination of interviews with relevant employees at the Head Office in High Wycombe and sites at Nottingham and Bristol; documentation and record review and the evaluation of the report using a pre set checklist for alignment with the GRI G3.

Financial data drawn directly from independently audited financial accounts has not been checked back to source as part of this assurance process.

### **STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE AND COMPETENCE**

The SGS Group of companies is the world leader in inspection, testing and verification, operating in more than 140 countries and providing services including management systems and service certification; quality, environmental, social and ethical auditing and training; environmental, social and sustainability report assurance. SGS United Kingdom Ltd affirms our independence from 3663 First for Foodservice, being free from bias and conflicts of interest with the organisation, its subsidiaries and stakeholders.

The assurance team was assembled based on their knowledge, experience and qualifications for this assignment, and comprised IRCA Certificated Sustainability Assurance Practitioner (CSAP) and Associate CSAP and IEMA Registered Environmental auditor.

### **ASSURANCE OPINION**

On the basis of the methodology described and the verification work performed, we are satisfied that the information and data contained within the 3663 First for Foodservice Sustainability Report 2008 / 2009 verified is reliable and provides a fair and balanced representation of the sustainability activities of 3663 First for Foodservice in 2008 / 2009. We believe that the organisation has chosen an appropriate level of assurance for this stage in their reporting.

### **REPORTING AGAINST THE GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE REPORTING GUIDELINES (2006)**

In our opinion, the 3663 First for Foodservice Sustainability Report 2008 / 2009 meets the content and quality requirements of the Global Reporting Initiative G3 Version 3.0 Application Level C+.

### **Materiality**

Material issues that reflect the company's significant economic, environmental and social impacts and that significantly affect the decision making of stakeholders have been included in the report, meeting the requirements of the GRI G3 Materiality Principle. In our opinion future reports could be improved by including sustainability targets linked to material issues and information on performance against set targets.

### **Stakeholder Inclusiveness**

Details on key stakeholders and reference to other stakeholders needs are included in the report, meeting the requirements of the GRI G3 Stakeholder Inclusiveness Principle. In our opinion future reports could be improved by expanding the information regarding prioritisation and inclusion of stakeholders, and on how stakeholder engagement influenced the report content and the company's sustainability activities.

### **Accuracy**

Information and data in the report were evaluated and where necessary to ensure accurate reporting, were amended accordingly, thereby meeting the requirements of the GRI G3 Accuracy Principle. In our opinion the systems for collation and internal checking of some data to be reported could be improved for future reporting cycles.

### **Signed:**

**For and on behalf of SGS United Kingdom Ltd**



**Jim Weaver**

**UK Systems and Services Certification Business Manager**

**21 October 2009**

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