

PROJECT CLEAN AIR

Certification Scheme for Clean Air Charter

Final Report

For

Vogue Laundry Service Limited (Vogue)



Prepared by



March 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

Established in 1964, Vogue Laundry Service Limited (Vogue) has been providing professional laundering and dry-cleaning services for over 22 airlines and airport customers, over 24 hotels, clubs, restaurants and education institutes. Wholly-owned by Cathay Pacific Airways Limited in 1999, Vogue has 20 retail outlets in Hong Kong, as well as an in-house laboratory, supplying fabric-related technical services. With a workforce of around 600 employees, a fleet of 32 delivery trucks, Vogue runs operation 18 hours daily.

This report outlines the findings of Business Environment Council (BEC) from a walk through audit and interview with Mr Richard Lee, Manager of Quality Assurance & Safety and Mr Abi Leung, Safety Officer of Vogue.

From the pre-audit questionnaire completed by Vogue, it was determined that Vogue fits into Group C category of the certification scheme, showing that the organization has comprehensive management systems and means in place to identify and verify the implementation of energy efficiency / emission reduction programmes that are in compliance with the Clean Air Charter.

The audit visit was conducted at Vogue's operation facility located at 9, 10 & 11 floor of East Asia Industrial Building in Tuen Mun and led by Mr Benny Au, Ms Dorothy Lam and Ms Brenda Fung on 3rd December 2008. The purpose of this audit was to verify Vogue's commitments to the Clean Air Charter.


2. OBSERVATIONS AND COMPLIANCE


Based on the site meeting, Vogue's programmes and practices on reducing air emission were reviewed. In general, a systematic approach on addressing the Clean Air Charter's commitments has been implemented as follows:


- Vogue has attained the ISO14001:2004 and OHSAS18001 accreditation.
- Vogue has environmental, health and safety policy in place which clearly describes the responsibilities of Vogue employees, with primary objective to reduce environmental impact arising from its operation.
- Vogue engineering team is responsible for maintaining and monitoring the air emissions from boiler chimney by visual using CCTV system as well as recording the energy consumption on daily basis.
- For 2008, Vogue's objective is to reduce boiler diesel consumption by 5% against 2007 as baseline, while to reduce 2% of CO₂ emission by the end of 2010 as compared to the emission level of 2007.
- An energy audit was conducted by energy consultant in July 2008 to identify area of improvement and devise measures for energy conservation.
- Environmental driving practice trainings have been conducted for drivers in 2007 and Vogue will keep inviting external trainers to provide environmental trainings to staff.
- Information on Clean Air Charter is included in the Induction training for new joiners as well as Refresher training for existing staff.
- The energy consumption data are monitored and reviewed through weekly management meeting, monthly EHS meeting and management review meeting after the internal audit.

Regarding the six commitments of the Clean Air Charter, the table below summarizes the achievements of Vogue:

Commitment	Action done
1) Operate to a recognized world class standard, or the standards established by the Hong Kong / Guangdong governments on emissions of air pollutants, even if it is not a requirement to do so here. (Relevant to industrial operations, power plants and business with direct emissions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Vogue complies with the requirements under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance as set out by Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department.
2) Use continuous emissions monitors (CEMs) at significant sources, e.g. large and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The main emission sources are from steam boiler operation and delivery trucks. ♦ The major air pollutants generated are CO₂, SO_x,

Commitment	Action done
medium plants. (Relevant to large / medium industrial operations and power plants)	<p>NOx and Particulate Matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ As indicated by Vogue, no continuous emissions monitor is required under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, and therefore continuous emission monitoring is not applicable to the scope of Vogue's operation with regards to the CAC commitments. However, the emission from boiler chimney is visually monitored daily by the CCTV system.
3) Publish information on energy and fuel use, as well as total emissions of air pollutants annually and timely, if emissions are significant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Vogue publishes energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission data in Swire Pacific Sustainable Development Report annually. ♦ Vogue has benchmarked the energy consumption with other overseas commercial laundries. ♦ As provided by Vogue, the industrial diesel use per ton of work in 2008 is 0.1481 Litre/Ton of work which was 8.2% decreased from that of 2007 (0.1614 Litre/Ton of work).
4) Undertake to adopt energy-efficient measures in their operations.	<p>In response to endorsing Clean Air Charter, Vogue has implemented a number of energy-efficient measures in their operations to reduce emissions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Since mid 2007, Vogue has installed 2 new steam boilers with high energy efficiency and the 2 existing boilers will be phased out by 2010. And since October 2008, Vogue has switched to use cleaner fuel (Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel) for boiler operation. ♦ In April 2008, a comprehensive steam trap survey was conducted by external steam management expert to identify defective and misapplied steam traps as to minimize energy loss upon replacement. 

Commitment	Action done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Vogue is implementing replacement programme of non-Euro III vehicles by phase. Currently there are 32 delivery trucks, of which 11 with Euro III engine and 2 equipped with engine of Euro IV standard and has installed particulate traps to those pre-Euro trucks. The delivery routes have been optimized to reduce delivery trips from 82 to 72 in 2008.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Replacement of 2 old dry-cleaning machines with new models to eliminate the leaking of solvent Perchloroethylene during the dry-cleaning process, it reduced 27% solvent consumption in 2007.

Commitment	Action done
	
<p>5) Identify and encourage business-relevant measures to be taken on days when air pollution is high.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When air pollution level is high, Vogue will commit encouraging staff to use public transport, less electricity at home and at work and notifying staff the high API level by posting notice on notice board and intranet.
<p>6) Share air quality expertise in business with others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental achievements are communicated with other companies through website and annual Swire Sustainable Development Report. Vogue also shares its best practices with other Swire Group companies through regular environmental task force meeting. Vogue received HK Green Mark certification in 2008.

3. CONCLUSION

Vogue Laundry Service Limited has demonstrated their commitments towards the Clean Air Charter's commitments and is recommended to be certified under the Clean Air Charter.