



Australian Packaging Covenant Action Plan

For

Yakult Australia Pty Ltd

1st July 2020- 30th June 2022

Executive Summary

Yakult Australia is committed to improving our packaging and business processes in order to achieve resource efficiencies and reduce the environmental impact of our product and our organisation. Yakult Australia will contribute to the three covenant goals of design, recycling and product stewardship.

Yakult Honsha (head of the Yakult Group companies) has also set worldwide goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase resource recycling, promote efficient use of resources and preserve biodiversity through understanding the impact of business activities.

With this in mind, we will endeavour to improve our manufacturing processes, business practices and packaging where possible and appropriate and work towards the common goal of environmental sustainability.

Mr Kenji Ono

Managing Director

Yakult Australia Pty Ltd

Organisational Overview

Yakult Honsha Co. Ltd (based in Tokyo, Japan) was established in 1955. Yakult Australia, a subsidiary of Yakult Honsha, opened in Australia in 1994. Yakult Australia's head office is based in Dandenong, Victoria. This site houses senior management, finance, administration and production.

Yakult is proudly Australian made, from the finest ingredients. Whilst Yakult has enjoyed more than eight decades of successfully promoting probiotics overseas, it is a relatively new product to Australia.

Yakult Australia Pty. Ltd. commenced production on 22 January 1994. Australia was the first English speaking country chosen to launch Yakult due to its close proximity to Asia. Another reason was Australia's increasing interest in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Yakult has enjoyed phenomenal market penetration and success since it arrived on Australia's supermarket shelves.

Yakult was launched into the Australian market progressively, starting in Victoria. This step-by-step launch into each state over a period of six years reflects Yakult's commitment to maintaining the quality of its service to all customers and its understanding of the need to support this unique product with a comprehensive education program.

Yakult Australia currently employs over 100 people in Australia and New Zealand. Our staff includes production workers, educators, sales consultants, dietitians, nutritionists, administrative staff, managers and human resource personnel.

Yakult Australia's manufacturing plant (based at Head Office in Dandenong, Victoria) manufactures Yakult (5 pack and 10 pack) and Yakult Light (5 pack) products.

The Corporate Philosophy

Yakult's greatest goal is to bring smiles to faces everywhere. The global corporate philosophy of the Yakult Group is:

"We contribute to the health and happiness of people around the world through pursuit of excellence in life sciences in general and our research and experience in microorganisms in particular."

Current Packaging Materials

As part of our commitment to the APC we will work throughout the period of this Action Plan to align our product with Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPG).

Yakult Australia is a member of the Yakult Group companies that are headed by Yakult Honsha, based in Tokyo, Japan. As polystyrene resins (to manufacture Yakult bottles), shrink wrap (for Yakult Light bottles, 5 and 10pk outer wrapping and slab wrapping) and some secondary packaging materials are sourced via Yakult Honsha for the purpose of consistency of quality and appearance across the Group, Yakult Australia is not able to revise or implement changes for these materials without direction from Yakult Honsha. Yakult Australia will work on Performance Goal 2 (Recycling) for these materials.

In saying this, Yakult Australia will reassess of all packaging items that are sourced locally (cardboard pads, plastic pallet wrap, labels and pallets) to meet SPG where cost permits and to align ourselves with suppliers who are APC members where commercial considerations are equivalent.

Group	Products Included	Assessment Scheduled
Small polystyrene bottles	65ml Yakult & Yakult Light bottles	Assessment of locally sourced suppliers to be completed by July 2022
Plastic film	Sleeve wrapping for Yakult Light, 5 & 10pk wrapping, stretch film for slabs	
Plastic straws	Straws included in 10pk product	
Plastic pallet wrap	Wrapping for pallets of stock	
Cardboard pads	Cardboard footers used to stabilise pallets of product	
Foil	Foil lid seals for Yakult bottles	
Labels	Labels for pallets and slabs	
Wooden pallets	Loscam pallets used to palletise and transport goods	

Covenant Contact Officer

David Whatley
Director, Sales & Corporate Affairs
Phone: 03 9238 4730
Email: dwhatley@yakult.com.au
Address: 10 Monterey Road, Dandenong VIC 3175

Action Plan

Performance Goal/KPI	Actions	Responsibility	Baseline Data	Target	Milestones
Goal 1. Design- Optimise packaging to achieve resource efficiency and reduce environmental impact					
KPI 1- Proportion of signatories in the supply chain implementing the SPG for design or procurement of packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review suppliers of locally sourced packaging materials to meet SPG where cost permits - Affiliate with APC signatories suppliers who are APC members where commercial considerations are equivalent with other suppliers - Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPG) is to be taken into account for packaging the product 	HR Co-ordinator, Senior Sales Advisor Production Senior Advisor	No existing data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact current locally sourced suppliers of the packaging materials to review them in line with SPG - Implement system to record SPG reviews/ audits 	Q2 2022
Goal 2. Recycling- The efficient collection and recycling of packaging					
KPI 3- Proportion of signatories with on-site recovery systems for recycling used packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve methods of on-site recycling to ensure recyclable materials are disposed of correctly. - Regular monitoring of our waste streams. 	Manager-Finance & Administration, HR Co-ordinator	- Clearly marked recycling bins have been installed throughout Production and Office buildings (including work areas and staff break rooms).	- Continuous monitoring to ensure that the bins are well utilised	On-going and back up with the annual report

Performance Goal/KPI	Actions	Responsibility	Baseline Data	Target	Milestones
	- Increase employee awareness regarding the importance of recycling and related company procedures/policies.	HR Co-ordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-site waste Management process existed in the Employee Induction Booklet. - Clearly marked recycling bins have been installed throughout Production and Office buildings (including work areas and staff break rooms). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create awareness of employees by including the recycling policy into the on-boarding process. Modify Employee Induction Form to make it compulsory for all new staff to be briefed of the process and signed off by the employees and their manager/HR. - On-going reminders to ensure waste is disposed of correctly if bins are not utilised correctly. 	Q4 2021
KPI 4- Proportion of signatories with a policy to buy products made from recycled packaging.	Increase recycled material content, where commercially and technically feasible, in all products and materials purchased by Yakult Australia.	HR Co-ordinator	A formal Yakult Australia “Buy Recycled” policy in place	Have annual meeting with staff in charge of purchasing to review the challenges and opportunities of implementing the policy.	Q4 yearly
Goal 3. Product Stewardship- Demonstrated commitment to product stewardship					
KPI 6- Proportion of signatories that have formal processes for working with others to improve design and recycling of packaging	Identify our current suppliers and customers that are signatories to the APC	HR Co-ordinator	Over 80% of our products are sold to customers who are APC signatories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and update Approved Supplier Procedure - Review and update Approved Supplier Programme Questionnaire 	<p>Q4 2021</p> <p>Q1 2022</p>

Performance Goal/KPI	Actions	Responsibility	Baseline Data	Target	Milestones
KPI 7- Proportion of signatories demonstration other product stewardship outcomes	Review packaging of Yakult Light to assess feasibility of removing the plastic sleeve from the bottle and printing information directly onto the bottle.	Director of Sales & Corporate Affairs	Each bottle of Yakult Light sold (Approx. 11.5 million p.a.) has a plastic sleeve shrink wrapped to the bottle.	If it shown to be feasible remove the sleeve entirely.	Q4 2022
	Make public our commitment to the APC through our website and factory tour visitors	Education Co-ordinator	No existing data	Use all possible media to publicise Yakult Australia's commitment to the APC	Q4 2021
	Review the current Workplace Inspection Checklist to include appropriate waste disposal aspect and litter on the premises	HR Co-ordinator	There is a checklist but it does not include the level of cleanliness regarding litter on the premises	Amend the Workplace Inspection Checklist to monitor usage of recycle bins and eliminate litter on the premises	Q4 2020
KPI 8- Reduction in the number of packaging items in the litter	Review the current Workplace Inspection Checklist to include appropriate waste disposal aspect and litter on the premises	HR Co-ordinator	There is a checklist but it does not include the level of cleanliness regarding litter on the premises	Amend the Workplace Inspection Checklist to monitor usage of recycle bins and eliminate litter on the premises	Q4 2020
	Improve disposal information on consumer packaging.	Senior Sales Advisor	No existing data	Investigate the feasibility/ process involved to implement	Q3 2020

Performance Goal/KPI	Actions	Responsibility	Baseline Data	Target	Milestones
				disposal information on consumer packaging.	