

Independent assurance over our 2004 CO₂ inventory

Holcim engaged KPMG LLP to provide limited assurance over the 2004 CO₂ inventory of our global cement operations. KPMG was asked to provide independent assurance over the four key indicators of direct CO₂ emissions - absolute gross, absolute net, specific gross and specific net - which are reported according to the WBCSD Cement CO₂ Protocol.

KPMG LLP issued an independent assurance report on 31 October 2005 → [more](#)

Our objectives in commissioning this work were to:

- learn from the assurance process and to share experience and knowledge about the issues involved in emissions monitoring and reporting within Holcim and with interested parties outside our business;
- obtain an independent assurance report on our CO₂ emissions data for the year ended 31 December 2004;
- add credibility on our reported CO₂ data for our external stakeholders.

The KPMG LLP review identified several strengths in our inventory process and system, including:

- the commitment made by our senior management to developing and reporting an accurate, complete, consistent and transparent inventory of our CO₂ emissions;
- the use of data from our business reporting systems to calculate our CO₂ emissions provides confidence in our control over the data;
- the implementation of the WBCSD Cement CO₂ Protocol across the Holcim Group to provide a consistent basis for reporting;
- the incorporation of CO₂ emissions in Group company environmental performance indicators and into our Group operational roadmap allows a management focus on performance improvement.

The KPMG LLP review also identified some areas for improvement. We are committed to continuing to improve our CO₂ inventory process, therefore, based on the findings of the review, we will work to:

- improve the reliability and consistency of reported data from those plants in which we have an equity share, but do not have management control, where this does not conflict with applicable laws and regulations;
- clarify guidance on the determination of thermal energy data from fuels, to ensure greater consistency in approach across the Group;
- review our use of default data, particularly in relation to the calcination factor, and move towards using site specific information where more accurate information is available;
- develop and document consistent guidance on CO₂ inventory quality assurance processes at all levels;
- investigate practical ways to improve our classification of fuel mixtures.