

## INDEPENDENT LIMITED ASSURANCE STATEMENT



**To: The Stakeholders of Abbott**

### **Introduction and objectives of work**

Apex Companies, LLC (Apex) has been engaged by Abbott Laboratories (Abbott) to provide limited assurance of selected environmental, health and safety data included in its 2022 Global Sustainability Report. This assurance statement applies to the Subject Matter included within the scope of work described below.

This information and its presentation in the Global Sustainability Report ('the Report') are the sole responsibility of the management of Abbott. Apex was not involved in the drafting of the Report. Our sole responsibility was to provide independent assurance on the accuracy of the Subject Matter. This is the eighth year in which we have provided assurance over Abbott's Global Sustainability Report.

### **Scope of work**

The scope of our work was limited to assurance over the following information included within the Report for the Calendar Year 2022 reporting period (the 'Subject Matter'):

- Scope 1 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions (metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e) from stationary combustion, process, refrigerant releases and global sales fleet
- Scope 2 GHG emissions (metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e) from purchased energy (Location-based and market-based)
- Scope 3 GHG Emissions - Business Travel and Waste from Operations (metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Energy consumption associated with Scope 1 and Scope 2 sources
- Beneficial use
- Total non-hazardous waste generation and fate
- Total hazardous waste generation and fate
- Water intake
- Water consumed in process
- Wastewater discharge: impaired and non-impaired
- Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions
- Environmental metrics normalized to sales
- Lost Time Case Rate
- Recordable Injury or Illness Case Rate
- Fatalities
- Accidents per Million Miles Rate (Field-Based Employees Only)

Our assurance does not extend to any other information included in the Report.

### **Reporting Boundaries**

The following are the boundaries used by Abbott for reporting sustainability data:

- Operational Control
- Worldwide

## Reporting Criteria

The Subject Matter needs to be read and understood together with the 2022 Global Sustainability Report.

## Limitations and Exclusions

Excluded from the scope of our work is any verification of information relating to:

- Activities outside the defined verification period;
- Text or other written statements associated with Abbott's 2022 Global Sustainability Report

This limited assurance engagement relies on a risk-based selected sample of sustainability data and the associated limitations that this entails. This independent statement should not be relied upon to detect all errors, omissions or misstatements that may exist.

## Responsibilities

This preparation and presentation of the Subject Matter in the Report are the sole responsibility of the management of Abbott.

Apex was not involved in the drafting of the Report or of the Reporting Criteria. Our responsibilities were to:

- obtain limited assurance about whether the Subject Matter has been prepared in accordance with the Reporting Criteria;
- form an independent conclusion based on the assurance procedures performed and evidence obtained; and
- report our conclusions to the stakeholders of Abbott.

## Assessment Standards

- We performed our work in accordance with Apex's standard procedures and guidelines for external Assurance of Sustainability Reports and International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 Revised, Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information (effective for assurance reports dated on or after Dec. 15, 2015), issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. A materiality threshold of  $\pm 5$ -percent was set for the assurance process.

## Summary of Work Performed

As part of our independent assurance, our work included:

1. Assessing the appropriateness of the Reporting Criteria for the Subject Matter;
2. Conducting interviews with relevant personnel of Abbott;
3. Reviewing the data collection and consolidation processes used to compile the Subject Matter, including assessing assumptions made, and the data scope and reporting boundaries;
4. Reviewing documentary evidence provided by Abbott;
5. Reviewing Abbott systems for quantitative data aggregation and analysis; and
6. Assessing the disclosure and presentation of the Subject Matter to ensure consistency with assured information.
7. Audit of Abbott's health, safety and environmental data traced back to the source for facilities located in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Singapore; Des Plaines, Illinois; Abbott Park, Illinois; and Little Canada, Minnesota during remote site visits.

8. Audit of commercial sales fleet data traced back to the source for affiliates in Australia, Canada and Italy.
9. Review of the centralized data, methods for consolidation of site data and site data available in the centralized data management system during a remote visit to Abbott's headquarters location in Abbott Park, Illinois.

## Conclusion

On the basis of our methodology and the activities described above:

- Nothing has come to our attention to indicate that the Subject Matter has not been properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Reporting Criteria; and
- It is our opinion that Abbott has established appropriate systems for the collection, aggregation and analysis of quantitative data included in the scope of work.
- A summary of the Subject Matter for 2022 is attached.

## Statement of Independence, Integrity and Competence

Apex is an independent professional services company that specializes in Health, Safety, Social and Environmental management services including assurance with over 30 years history in providing these services.

Apex has implemented a Code of Ethics across the business to maintain high ethical standards among staff in their day-to-day business activities.

No member of the assurance team has a business relationship with Abbott, its Directors or Managers beyond that required of this assignment. We have conducted this verification independently, and there has been no conflict of interest.

The assurance team has extensive experience in conducting assurance over environmental, social, ethical and health and safety information, systems and processes, has over 20 years combined experience in this field and an excellent understanding of Apex's standard methodology for the verification of greenhouse gas emissions data.

[REDACTED], Lead Assuror  
Apex Companies LLC  
Pleasant Hill, California

[REDACTED], Technical Reviewer  
Apex Companies LLC  
Santa Ana, California

March 31, 2023