CERTIFICATION REPORT

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Audit Number: AO-001370

WSAS WATER STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE SERVICES

SITE DETAILS

Site: **Hefei Midea Laundry Appliance Co., Ltd.**

Address: No. 88 Yulan Avenue, Baiyan Science and Technology Park, High tech Zone, Hefei City, 230000, Hefei, Anhui, P.R. CHINA

Contact Person: WU WENWEN

AWS Reference Number: AWS-000716

Site Structure: Single Site

CERTIFICATION DETAILS

Certification status: Certified Platinum

Date of certification decision: 2025-Jan-08

Validity of certificate: 2028-Jan-07

AUDIT DETAILS

Audited Service(s): AWS Standard v2.0 (2019)

Audit Type(s): Initial Audit

Audit Start Date: 2024-Oct-29

Lead Auditor: Rico Shang

Audit team participants:

Harinder Yue

Site Participants:

Qiyang Zhou, Head of Sustainability

Qianjun Lv, Energy Manager

Wenwen Wu, Operatons Sustainability Executive

Qing Xia, Factory EHS Manager

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ADDITIONAL INFO

Summary of Audit Findings: During the certification audit, 0 major non-conformities, 3 minor non-conformities, 2 observations were raised

The Client is requested to perform a root cause analysis and define corrective actions for each of the non-conformities and to submit these to WSAS within 30 days of receipt of the audit report. The corrective actions have been submitted and accepted.

The Minor non-conformities must be closed out by the time of the next annual audit.

The audit team recommends certification of Hefei Midea Laundry Appliance Co., Ltd. at Platinum level pending approval of the corrective actions plan.

Scope of Assessment: The scope of services covers the Initial certification audit for assessing conformity of Hefei Midea Laundry Appliance Co., Ltd. against the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Version 2.

Hefei Midea Laundry Appliance Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Midea") is located at No.88 Yulan Road, Baiyan Science Park, High-Tech Zone, Hefei City, Anhui Province, P.R. China. It was established in March 1996 and covers an area of 567 thousand square meters. Midea mainly produces Front-loading washing machine, Top-loading washing machine, Twin-tub washing machine for laundry appliance products.

The water sources used in Midea's site area include municipal water and recycled water. The municipal water is supplied by Hefei Water Group Co., Ltd. The industrial wastewater in Midea's site area is treated by its internal wastewater station, then mixed with domestic sewage and discharged to Western Cluster Sewage Treatment Plant for further treatment. Afterwards, it was discharged into the Pai River and eventually merged into Chaohu lake and Yangtze River.

The audit was conducted onsite on October 29-31, 2024. The audit activities included the site visit covered production lines, wastewater treatment plant, chemical warehouse and IWRA, stakeholder interviews and documents review.

SCORE

88.00

FINDINGS

NUMBER OF FINDINGS PER LEVEL

Observation	2
Minor	3

FINDING DETAILS

Finding No:	TNR-015565
Checklist Item No:	1.1.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	The physical scope of the site shall be mapped, considering the regulatory landscape and zone of stakeholder interests, including: - Site boundaries; - Water-related infrastructure, including piping network, owned or managed by the site or its parent organization; - Any water sources providing water to the site that are owned or managed by the site or its parent organization; - Water service provider (if applicable) and its ultimate water source; - Discharge points and waste water service provider (if applicable) and ultimate receiving water body or bodies; - Catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon for water.
Findings:	Missing site boundaries detailed map which demonstrates the detail locations for elements such as storage tank / fire tank / stormwater discharge point / wastewater discharge point / WWTP / hazardous wastes / chemical room / cooling tower / boiler room / scrubbers / fuel oil tank etc.

Finding No:	TNR-014493
Checklist Item No:	1.8.5
Status:	In Progress - CA plan approved
Finding level:	Minor
Due date:	2025-Nov-20
Checklist item:	Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for site provision of equitable and adequate WASH services shall be identified.
Findings:	It is recommended to collect through multiple channels, including international/recommended/industry standards, good cases of brands/other enterprises, etc.
Corrective action:	Cause analysis: insufficient channels for collecting information. Corrective measures: Collect the voluntary section of □Design Hygiene Standard for Industrial Enterprises>>GBZ 1-2010, occupational health and safety management system GB/T 45001-2020/ISO 45001:2018, and evaluate the drinking water facilities, sanitation and washing facilities of the enterprise in accordance with the standards, and the evaluation results meet the standards.

Finding No:	TNR-015471
Checklist Item No:	2.3.2
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	A water stewardship plan shall be identified, including for each target: - How it will be measured and monitored - Actions to achieve and maintain (or exceed) it - Planned timeframes to achieve it - Financial budgets allocated for actions - Positions of persons responsible for actions and achieving targets - Where available, note the link between each target and the achievement of best practice to help address shared water challenges and the AWS outcomes.
Findings:	The WSP missed quantifiable outcomes and benefits.

Finding No:	TNR-013833
Checklist Item No:	3.2.1
Status:	In Progress - CA plan approved
Finding level:	Minor
Due date:	2025-Oct-29
Checklist item:	A process to verify full legal and regulatory compliance shall be implemented.
Findings:	During the on-site visit, it is found that the rainwater pipe network around the production workshop is polluted or at risk of being polluted (pollution sources include sundries in the tea room, mop pool wastewater and cooling tower wastewater).
Corrective action:	Cause analysis: 1. Neglected the training of employees' awareness of rain and pollution diversion; 2, insufficient risk identification, management negligence did not identify the risk point; Corrective action: 1. Strengthen the training of employees' awareness of rain and pollution diversion; 2, the introduction of cleaning operation procedures, specify the placement of all kinds of debris, cleaning supplies, to avoid pollution of rainwater; 3. Rectify the cooling tower wastewater discharge pipe to ensure that it is discharged into the sewage network; 4. Post sewage near the stormwater outlet and prohibit pouring into the stormwater pipe network; 5. Check and maintain the drainage system of the cooling tower regularly to ensure its normal operation.

CERTIFICATION REPORT

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Audit Number: AO-001370

Finding No:	TNR-013835
Checklist Item No:	4.1.3
Status:	In Progress - CA plan approved
Finding level:	Minor
Due date:	2025-Oct-29
Checklist item:	The shared value benefits in the catchment shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.
Findings:	The site has not yet confirmed the shared value benefits of the catchment and quantified them.
Corrective action:	Cause analysis: The value created by sustainable water management has been quantified in individual water management projects, but the collective value created by the implementation of related activities has not been centrally summarized. Corrective action: Summarize the shared value of the catchment created by relevant activities.

Report Details

Report	Value
Report prepared by	Rico Shang
Report approved by	S. M. Leong
Report approved on (Date)	8 January 2025

Surveillance

Proposed date for next audit
2025-Oct-29

Comment The surveillance audit is proposed to be performed at 2025/10/29.

Stakeholder Announcements

Date of publication	Location
08/08/2024	https://a4ws.org/certification/registered-sites/
08/08/2024	https://weixin.qq.com/sph/ADEOuVhhL
08/08/2024	https://www.tuv.com/content-media-files/greater-china/about-us/downloads/management-systems/aws-000716_hefei-midea-laundry-appliance-co.-ltd_stakeholderannouncement.pdf

Comment 0.5-day stakeholder interview was performed on 31 October 2024. The following external stakeholders were interviewed during the audit: Hefei Municipal Bureau of Ecology and Environment /Mr. Zheng; Water reuse equipment manufacturer /Mr. Wang; Nearby enterprise /Mr. He; Community Representatives /Mr. Wang; Management Committee of the Development Zone /Mr. Zhang; Sludge treatment factory /Mr. Fan; Employee/Mr. Feng; Employee/Mr. Sun; Employee/Ms. Liu.

Catchment Information

Catchment Information

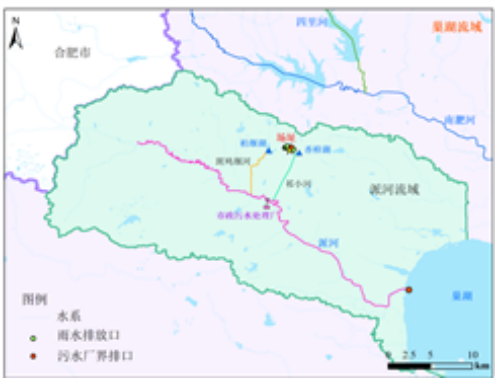
Hefei Midea Laundry Appliance Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Midea") is located at No.88 Yulan Road, Baiyan Science Park, High-Tech Zone, Hefei City, Anhui Province, P.R. China. The geographical coordinates are E 117.21, N 31.87. The project was established in 1996.

All the water used for Midea is tap water, which is provided by the second water plant/ the third water plant/ the seventh water plant of Hefei Water Supply Group Co., Ltd. The water sources are Dongpu Reservoir and Dafangying Reservoir (refer orange zone in the catchment map), and the backup water sources are the Yangtze River and Longhekou Reservoirs respectively, both of which are surface water.

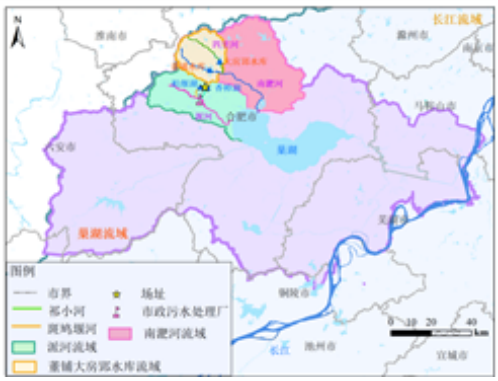
The industrial sewage generated by Midea is discharged into the municipal sewage pipe network after being treated by its own sewage treatment plant; The domestic sewage is pretreated by the tertiary septic tank, it is also discharged into the municipal sewage pipe network and then enters the municipal sewage treatment plant - the first phase of the Western Group Sewage Treatment Plant. And it would be discharged into the Pai River (refer green zone in the catchment map) after the treatment reaches the standard and then flows into Chaohu Lake.

There are total 5 rainwater outlets in Midea's area, of which three rainwater outlets outside the West Gate are discharged into Baiyan Lake, and then discharged into the Pai River through the Turtledove Yan River; the two rainwater outlets at the north gate and the east gate entering Xiangzhang Lake, and then pass through the Qi Xiaohe River, and then enter the Pai River.

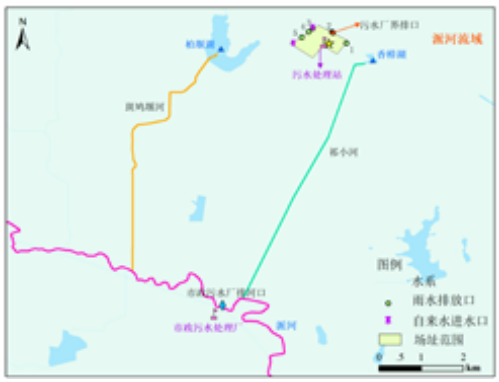
Therefore, the water resources stewardship selected the Nanfei River Basin (refer pink zone in the catchment map), where Dongpu Reservoir and Dafangying Reservoir (refer orange zone in the catchment map) are located, as the watershed on which Midea depend, and the Pai River Basin as the watershed affected by Midea.



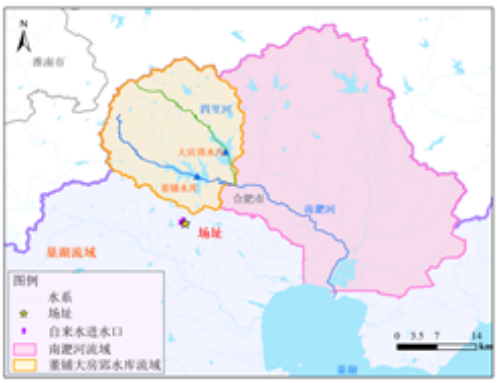
1.1.1 Map for- Wastewater service provider.png



1.1.1 Map for Catchment that the site affect and is reliant upon for water.png



1.1.1 map for- Water-related infrastructure.png



1.1.1 Map for- Water sources.png

Client Description and Site Details

Client/Site Background
Hefei Midea Laundry Appliance Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Midea") is located at No.88 Yulan Road, Baiyan Science Park, High-Tech Zone, Hefei City, Anhui Province, P.R. China. It was established in March 1996 and covers an area of 567 thousand square meters. Midea mainly produces Front-loading washing machine, Top-loading washing machine, Twin-tub washing machine for laundry appliance products.

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1.1.1 Map for- Site boundaries.png

Summary of Shared Water Challenges

Summary of Shared Water Challenges
Midea faced with follow shared water challenges:
1. The local water resources are insufficient, and there is a risk of insufficient water supply within the standard and seasonal water shortages. level 1

2. There is a risk of flood disasters, and the flood control and drainage standards are not perfect. level 2

3. Potential surface water pollution in the discharged river, its surface water quality may significantly decrease during flood season. level 3

4. The intensification of climate change may lead to frequent extreme weather events. level 4

The site has prioritized the shared challenges. The risk level from high (Level 1) to low (Level 4). The level of risk is determined by attention, impact, and outcome.

0.1	**General Requirements for Single Sites, Multi-Sites and Groups**	
0.1.1	*Eligibility Criteria*	
0.1.2		
0.1.2.1	*Have any water source locations and water-related discharge locations been visited during the audit, if so, which and where? If none were visited please provide justification.*	Yes
Comment	The water-related discharge locations are visited during the audit, including Western Cluster Sewage Treatment Plant, Baiyan Lake, Xiangzhang Lake and Pai River.	
0.1.1.1	*The site(s) occupy one catchment OR an exception has been granted.*	Yes
Comment	The site occupies one catchment.	
0.1.1.2	*The scope of the proposed certification shall be under the control of a single management system.*	Yes
Comment	The scope of the proposed certification is under the control of a single management system.	
0.1.1.3	*The scope of the proposed certification shall be homogeneous with respect to primary production system, water management, product or service range, and the main market structures.*	Yes
Comment	The scope of the proposed certification is homogeneous with respect to primary production system, water management, product or service range, and the main market structures.	

1	STEP 1: GATHER AND UNDERSTAND	
1.1	*Gather information to define the site's physical scope for water stewardship purposes, including: its operational boundaries; the water sources from which the site draws; the locations to which the site returns its discharges; and the catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and upon which it is reliant.*	
1.1.1	*The physical scope of the site shall be mapped, considering the regulatory landscape and zone of stakeholder interests, including:* *- Site boundaries;* *- Water-related infrastructure, including piping network, owned or managed by the site or its parent organization;* *- Any water sources providing water to the site that are owned or managed by the site or its parent organization;* *- Water service provider (if applicable) and its ultimate water source;* *- Discharge points and waste water service provider (if applicable) and ultimate receiving water body or bodies;* *- Catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon for water.*	Obs.
Comment	The site has developed a Background Investigation Report, and it contains the physical scope of the site. It contains: • Map of site boundaries with the source of water supply and discharge points of wastewater and rainwater. • Map of water-related infrastructures at the site such as pipeline, wastewater treatment plant. • Map of water supply (Midea's Tap water source is Dongpu Reservoir and Dafangying Reservoir, and the backup water source is the Yangtze River and Longhekou Reservoir.) • Map of municipal WWTP (Western Group Sewage Treatment Plant.) and its ultimate receiving water body (Pai River). • Map of catchment that the site affects and is reliant upon for water. (NanFei River Catchment and Pai River)	
1.2	*Understand relevant stakeholders, their water related challenges, and the site's ability to influence beyond its boundaries.*	
1.2.1	*Stakeholders and their water-related challenges shall be identified. The process used for stakeholder identification shall be identified. This process shall:* *- Inclusively cover all relevant stakeholder groups including vulnerable, women, minority, and Indigenous people;* *- Consider the physical scope identified, including stakeholders, representative of the site's ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body or bodies;* *- Provide evidence of stakeholder consultation on water-related interests and challenges;* *- Note that the ability and/or willingness of stakeholders to participate may vary across the relevant stakeholder groups;* *- Identify the degree of stakeholder engagement based on their level of interest and influence.*	Yes
Comment	Midea has established a Sustainable Water Management Operating Procedure, QMK-GDZ12.0001-2024, identification scope of stakeholders is clarified. Midea has identified stakeholders such as the government, employees, NGOs, surrounding residents, suppliers, infrastructures, and surrounding companies. Midea has developed an analysis table of stakeholders, and has established diversified communication channels with different stakeholders, such as phone calls, e-mails, meetings, questionnaires, visits, supplier reviews, and government official websites. Midea also consulted different types of stakeholders on the shared water challenge through questionnaires.	

1.2.2	*Current and potential degree of influence between site and stakeholder shall be identified, within the catchment and considering the site's ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body for wastewater.*	Yes
Comment	Midea has developed an analysis table of stakeholders, the degree of influence between site and stakeholder has been identified of each stakeholder.	
1.3	*Gather water-related data for the site, including: water balance; water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, water governance, WASH; water-related costs, revenues, and shared value creation.*	
1.3.1	*Existing water-related incident response plans shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Midea has developed a comprehensive response plan for environmental emergencies, including special emergency response plans for chemical and hazardous waste leakage and its decontamination wastewater treatment, waste water pipeline leakage, which are all related to water. The plan was registered with High-tech Industrial Development Zone Ecological Environment Bureau, No.340171-2023-012L. Midea has prepared a comprehensive emergency plan for production safety, including response procedures for natural disasters (such as flood, rainstorm, typhoon and earthquake). Midea has also developed a water cut-off emergency plan, identified the response process for sudden water supply anomalies such as water quality abnormalities, power outages, water supply pipeline leaks, water supply facility failures, and water storage facility leaks at the site. Midea prepares an emergency drill plan every year, which includes all the drill needs planned for the year (including water-related emergency drills), and the drill topics, participants, drill time, etc. are defined.	
1.3.2	*Site water balance, including inflows, losses, storage, and outflows shall be identified and mapped*	Yes
Comment	The site has recorded the income and input and output data via meter reading, evaporated water and loss water via estimation or calculation, and developed a water balance map based on the data. The water balance map reflected the water inflows, losses, reuses and outflows. Midea tracks the readings of each water meter every month and carries out water balance analysis every year.	
1.3.3	*Site water balance, inflows, losses, storage, and outflows, including indication of annual variance in water usage rates, shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water balance for people or environment, an indication of annual high and low variances shall be quantified.*	Yes
Comment	Midea has recorded the income and input and output data via meter or estimation, and developed a water balance map based on the data. The water balance map reflected the water inflows, losses, reuses and outflows. The site tracks the readings of each water meter every month and carries out water balance analysis every year. The input, loss, storage and output of water are quantified. And analyzed the annual trend of changes. According to the balance map of Year 2023, the variance is less than 5%.	
1.3.4	*Water quality of the site's water source(s), provided waters, effluent and receiving water bodies shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be quantified.*	Yes

Comment	Midea has developed a water quality monitoring inventory, which includes monitoring requirements for sewage, incoming water, drinking water, recycled water, and pure water for production, including monitoring points, monitoring methods, pollutant names, monitoring frequency, and control standards. For example: - Industrial wastewater: • According to the requirements of the Pollutant discharge permit, the site regularly entrusts a third-party laboratory to test the discharged wastewater • The site has installed online monitoring facilities at the wastewater discharge outlet to monitor pH, COD, ammonia nitrogen in real-time - Domestic wastewater: • Domestic wastewater is tested by an external qualified laboratory four times a year - recycled water • external qualified laboratory conducts daily testing of industrial wastewater discharge outlet and wastewater treatment processes - Drinking water • The site entrusts a third-party laboratory twice a year to test the water quality of the secondary water supply in the site area. • The site provides employees with free drinking water, equipped with 31 water dispensers in the production area and 28 water dispensers in the dormitory area, and entrusts a third-party laboratory twice a year to test the quality of drinking water, in accordance with the standard: Drinking Water Quality Standard, GB5749-2022. -Environmental water quality There are two receiving water bodies (Baiyan Lake and Xiangzhang Lake) for rainwater. The site entrusts a third-party laboratory to test the water quality of the river every year. All of the testing report is below the limit, and the variance is not obvious.
1.3.5	*Potential sources of pollution shall be identified and if applicable, mapped, including chemicals used or stored on site.* — Yes
Comment	The site has established a chemical inventory, which includes information on the names, suppliers, uses, quantities, storage locations, quantities, and compatibility of the chemicals used on the site. And a map was drawn, identifying and marking the storage and use areas of chemicals. The site has compiled an inventory of rainwater pollution sources, identified potential sources of rainwater pollution, including sewage treatment stations, hazardous waste warehouses, chemical warehouses, chemical storage areas, and wastewater storage tanks, and drew a distribution map of potential pollution sources. In addition, the site has also drawn diagrams of domestic and industrial wastewater pipelines, including the layout of the wastewater pipeline network, the location of septic tanks, wastewater treatment facilities, and the location of wastewater tanks.
1.3.6	*On-site Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified and mapped, including a description of their status including Indigenous cultural values.* — Yes
Comment	According to the site tour, no IWRA is identified in the site.
1.3.7	*Annual water-related costs, revenues, and a description or quantification of the social, cultural, environmental, or economic water-related value generated by the site shall be identified and used to inform the evaluation of the plan in 4.1.2.* — Yes
Comment	The water-related costs sheet was provided for review, including 1. Water supply invoice 2. Cost of wastewater discharge rights 3. Cost of Water/Wastewater Treatment (including electricity of pumps, consumables, depreciation and maintenance of facilities, etc.) 4. Water/wastewater/rainwater quality testing, peripheral water testing. Operation and maintenance of wastewater online testing facilities 5.AWS related expenses The water-related revenues included: Income from frugal projects.

1.3.8	*Levels of access and adequacy of WASH at the site shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Water purifiers are installed at office buildings and all workshops and regularly drinking water reports are attached next to the purifiers. The site counted the number of toilet pits, water taps, water dispensers and employees at the site and evaluated the level of compliance of its own sanitation facilities according to the industrial enterprise hygiene standard GBZ1-2010. The site also used the WBSCD tool to evaluate the WASH level within the site area. According to the evaluation results, the WASH level of the plant met the requirements.	
1.4	*Gather data on the site's indirect water use, including: its primary inputs; the water use embedded in the production of those primary inputs the status of the waters at the origin of the inputs (where they can be identified); and water used in out-sourced water-related services.*	
1.4.1	*The embedded water use of primary inputs, including quantity, quality and level of water risk within the site's catchment, shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site identified and screened the top 52 suppliers with transaction amounts and through the investigation questionnaires. The site analyzed the water related risk level of suppliers by the intensity of water consumption, water management, environmental violation records, WWF water risk screening results. For suppliers within the catchment, in addition to the above information, the site also requires suppliers to provide wastewater discharge test reports. The site also provided the suppliers' Fresh water consumption per RMB10,000 output value (tons/RMB10,000).	
1.4.2	*The embedded water use of outsourced services shall be identified, and where those services originate within the site's catchment, quantified.*	Yes
Comment	Midea also collects the water consumption of its outsourced services such as hazardous waste and non-hazardous waste disposal units through questionnaires.	
1.4.3	*Advanced Indicator* *The embedded water use of primary inputs in catchment(s) of origin shall be quantified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
1.5	*Gather water-related data for the catchment, including water governance, water balance, water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, infrastructure, and WASH*	
1.5.1	*Water governance initiatives shall be identified, including catchment plan(s), water-related public policies, major publicly-led initiatives under way, and relevant goals to help inform site of possible opportunities for water stewardship collective action.*	Yes
Comment	Water governance initiatives was identified in Catchment Background Survey Report by Midea; The initiatives included national, provincial and local level, including the catchment development plan, industrial development plan, environmental and ecological conservation plan etc.	
1.5.2	*Applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements shall be identified, including legally-defined and/or stakeholder-verified customary water rights.*	Yes
Comment	The site presents a laws and regulations list that contains all legal actions. The document is used by the site to monitor the status of each of the site's legal obligations.	
1.5.3	*The catchment water-balance, and where applicable, scarcity, shall be quantified, including indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, variance.*	Yes

Comment	The water balance of the catchment is not available. The Catchment Background Survey Report provides a detailed analysis of the water balance from 2020 to 2023 based on the water balance data of Hefei City. The water balance is analyzed according to precipitation, seasonal variation of precipitation, surface water resources, groundwater resources, total water resources, water storage dynamics of large and medium-sized reservoirs, water supply and water consumption. All data comes from government websites and published reports. According to available data, Hefei city received 994.7 mm of rainfall in 2023 and a total of 11.082 billion cubic meters. Judging from the precipitation data of the above four years, the rainfall in Hefei has gradually decreased in the three years from 2020 to 2022 and increased in 2023. The precipitation in Hefei is unevenly distributed during the year, with more precipitation in summer and less precipitation in winter and spring. From 2020 to 2022, Hefei city's surface water resources, and total water resources decreased year by year, and began to pick up in 2023; From 2020 to 2022, Hefei city's total water supply and consumption continued to rise, but in 2023, both water supply and water consumption decreased. The annual variance is also analysis as well.

1.5.4	*Water quality, including physical, chemical, and biological status, of the catchment shall be identified, and where possible, quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The Catchment Background Survey Report provides a detailed analysis of the water quality from 2020 to 2023 based on the water quality data of Hefei City. The drinking water sources in Hefei city are Dongpu Reservoir and Dafangying Reservoir, and the average values of the indicators monitored in 2023 meet the Class III water quality standard of GB3838-2002 "Environmental Quality Standard for Surface Water", with a compliance rate of 100%. According to the statistical results of the water quality data of the two drinking water sources in Hefei city, the water quality indicators do not change much with the monthly or seasonal range, and all the indicators have stably reached the surface water quality standard of class III water. Hefei Water Supply Group is mainly responsible for the water supply guarantee and service work in Hefei urban area. The Water quality data including 9 items of outlet water testing data be published on the official website every day.	

1.5.5	*Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified, and where appropriate, mapped,and their status assessed including any threats to people or the natural environment, using scientific information and through stakeholder engagement.*	Yes
Comment	The Catchment Background Survey Report lists the Important Water-Related Area of the catchment. The Important Water-Related Areas are collected from government published documents. The status of the IWRAs are collected from the manage authorities and descripted in the list.	

1.5.6	*Existing and planned water-related infrastructure shall be identified, including condition and potential exposure to extreme events.*	Yes
Comment	The Catchment Background Survey Report lists the existing and planned water-related infrastructure including water supply facilities, wastewater treatment facilities and network, emergency response at provincial, catchment and city levels and water-related objectives. Based on the available information, the water-related infrastructure in the catchment is sufficient, though the tap water penetration rate has not reach 100%.	

1.5.7	*The adequacy of available WASH services within the catchment shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment	The facility obtained the WASH status in Hefei City from the official report released by the authorities including the tap water penetration rate, wastewater treatment rate and other data. Including: 1.The tap water coverage rate in rural areas of Hefei has reached 99%, and according to the 2022 National Statistical Yearbook on the Level of Urban Municipal Shared Facilities, the water supply penetration rate in Hefei has reached 99.39%; 2. The centralized treatment rate of urban sewage treatment plants in Hefei will reach 95.7%, the treatment rate of rural domestic sewage had not been 15.4% in 2020, and the target city will reach 40.79% in 2025. 3. Urban residents in the basin have a high level of WASH adequacy, rural residents generally have access to high-quality tap water, and there is a lack of sewage collection and treatment, but the governments at all levels in Hefei city are working hard to solve the problem of rural domestic sewage treatment. Overall, the WASH services are good in Hefei City.

1.5.8 *Advanced Indicator*
Efforts by the site to support and undertake catchment level water-related data collection shall be identified.

Yes

Comment	The site conducts annual water quality testing on the Baiyan Lake and Xiangzhang Lake (which flow through the production area of the site and are the final receiving bodies for rainwater and wastewater). The site entrusts third-party laboratories for testing every year. The testing standards are based on the Surface Water Environmental Quality Standard GB3838-2002, and the testing parameters include COD, pH, NH3-N, TP. In addition, the site has collected the monthly water quality data regarding the Dongpu Reservoir and Dafangying Reservoir, water supply plant and the surrounding rivers.
Score	5

1.5.9 *Advanced Indicator*
The adequacy of WASH provision within the catchments of origin of primary inputs shall be identified.

Yes

Comment	The site has identified adequacy of WASH provision within the catchments of origin of primary inputs including the coverage of safety drinking water supply, the coverage of wastewater treatment, the rate of security disposal of municipal solid waste, and public facilities and environmental sanitation in urban districts.
Score	4

1.6 *Understand current and future shared water challenges in the catchment, by linking the water challenges identified by stakeholders with the site's water challenges.*

1.6.1 *Shared water challenges shall be identified and prioritized from the information gathered.*

Yes

Comment	The site identified the shared water challenges via catchment report and the engagement of stakeholders (questionaries, seminar and visiting etc..). The share water challenges including: 1. Lack of water. The local water resources are insufficient, restricted by the shortage of natural water and the pollution of rivers and lakes, the problem of water shortage and water quality shortage has coexisted for a long time. Priority level 1 2. Flood. During the summer months, there is more rainfall, which leads to an increase in river runoff. Priority level 2 3. Pollution of water bodies. The catchment suffered eutrophication. Priority level 2 4. Mitigating climate change. Climate change leads to frequent climate extremes, and mitigation is important. Priority level 4 Meanwhile, based on the analysis of relevance/rationale for stakeholders and relevance/rational for the site, the site has prioritized the shared challenges. The risk level from low (Level 1) to high (Level 4). The level of risk is determined by urgency and severity.

1.6.2	*Initiatives to address shared water challenges shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Initiatives to address shared water challenges are included in the Catchment Background Report identifies the shared challenges within the catchment.	
1.6.3	*Advanced Indicator* *Future water issues shall be identified, including anticipated impacts and trends*	Yes
Comment	The site analyzed the trends in population changes, agricultural, industrial, and domestic water use changes, climate, and ecological environment changes within the catchment by querying reports published by government or academic institutions. And based on research reports and WWF, WRI water risk analysis models, predictions were made for future water issues in the basin. Overall, 1) The population in the basin will continue to grow in the future, so that the demand for water resources will also increase further; 2) Water quality scarcity and water source scarcity will continue to exist for a long time to come.	
Score	3	
1.6.4	*Advanced Indicator* *Potential water-related social impacts from the site shall be identified, resulting in a social impact assessment with a particular focus on water.*	N/A
Comment	The facility does not perform this indicator.	
1.7	*Understand the site's water risks and opportunities: Assess and prioritize the water risks and opportunities affecting the site based upon the status of the site, existing risk management plans and/or the issues and future risk trends identified in 1.6.*	
1.7.1	*Water risks faced by the site shall be identified, and prioritized, including likelihood and severity of impact within a given timeframe, potential costs and business impact.*	Yes
Comment	The site identified its water risks and summarized in a spreadsheet. They categorized the water risk into physical risk, regulatory risk and reputation risk. The spreadsheet that lists the water risks faced by the site. The site scored the frequency of the risk and severity of the impact, and then multiple two scores to evaluate the level of the risk. The potential impact and control measures are also included in the spreadsheet.	
1.7.2	*Water-related opportunities shall be identified, including how the site may participate, assessment and prioritization of potential savings, and business opportunities.*	Yes
Comment	The site has identified six major business opportunities considering how the site may participate. The potential value includes maintain compliance, save money, increase the awareness of water source protection among stakeholders in the catchment, increase brand reputation, increase the awareness of water quality protection among stakeholders in the catchment, and increase the site's ability to cope with extreme weather.	
1.8	*Understand best practice towards achieving AWS outcomes: Determining sectoral best practices having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance.*	
1.8.1	*Relevant catchment best practice for water governance shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment

Midea has identified relevant catchment best practice for water governance including:
• Government-enterprise cooperation to do publicity on water sources
• The management team's interpretation of the sustainable water stewardship approach
• Washing machine water-saving plan publicity
• The environmental week activities were launched
• Publicity of the benefits of water-saving projects
• AWS Publicity
• The site conducted water-saving work publicity
• All employees publicize and implement water-saving knowledge

1.8.2 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water balance (either through water efficiency or less total water use) shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The site has identified relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water balance including:
• The state encourages the promotion and application of common general technologies
• The site uses the advanced water quotas
• The site has obtained water Conservation Improvement Technology Project such as: National Green Factory, Anhui Green Factory, Product Certification, Energy Saving and Water Saving Certification, Decarbonization of energy, testing water reuse projects, Cooling water recycling project, Spray-free new technology application project

1.8.3 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water quality shall be identified, including rationale for data source.*

Yes

Comment

The site has identified relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water quality, such as:
• MBR-DF Combined wastewater treatment technology
• Wetland ecosystem construction and stability maintenance technology

1.8.4 *Relevant catchment best practice for site maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The site has identified best practices related to Important Water Related Areas (IWRA). Such as water quality monitoring of neighbor lake, or carrying out ecological restoration, treatment of sewage outlets, and interception of pollutants along key rivers.

1.8.5 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for site provision of equitable and adequate WASH services shall be identified.*

No

Comment

The site has identified relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for site provision of equitable and adequate WASH services including:
• WBCSD self-assessment tool
• The voluntary clause of the GBZ 1-2010 Hygienic standards for the design of industrial enterprises
• Timely disclose the results of drinking water quality testing, maintain records, add the new drinking water machines etc., to ensure that employees can obtain direct drinking water with confidence.

Finding No: TNR-014493

2	STEP 2: COMMIT & PLAN - Commit to be a responsible water steward and develop a Water Stewardship Plan	
2.1	*Commit to water stewardship by having the senior-most manager in charge of water at the site, or if necessary, a suitable individual within the organization head office, sign and publicly disclose a commitment to water stewardship, the implementation of the AWS Standard and achieving its five outcomes, and the allocation of required resources.*	
2.1.1	*A signed and publicly disclosed site statement OR organizational document shall be identified. The statement or document shall include the following commitments:* *- That the site will implement and disclose progress on water stewardship program(s) to achieve improvements in AWS water stewardship outcomes* *- That the site implementation will be aligned to and in support of existing catchment sustainability plans* *- That the site's stakeholders will be engaged in an open and transparent way* *- That the site will allocate resources to implement the Standard.*	✓ Yes
Comment	A water stewardship commitment to follow all the AWS core criteria has been signed by the top manager of Midea. The commitment includes all the necessary element and has been displayed on its official WeChat account.	
2.1.2	*Advanced Indicator* *A statement that explicitly covers all requirements set out in Indicator 2.1.1 and is signed by the organization's senior-most executive or governance body and publicly disclosed shall be identified.*	✓ Yes
Comment	A water stewardship commitment to follow all the AWS core criteria has been signed by the top manager of Midea. The commitment has been displayed on its official WeChat account. https://weixin.qq.com/sph/ArPN1QbwS	
Score	1	
2.2	*Develop and document a process to achieve and maintain legal and regulatory compliance.*	
2.2.1	*The system to maintain compliance obligations for water and wastewater management shall be identified, including:* *- Identification of responsible persons/positions within facility organizational structure* *- Process for submissions to regulatory agencies.*	✓ Yes
Comment	Midea disclosed the information of its water management organizational structure and members of the compliance responsible team on its official WeChat account. Midea has prepared its own sustainable water stewardship operation procedure, QMK-GDZ12.0001, which defines the water management responsibilities of each department. Midea has also established a procedure to ensure the operation of Midea meet the provisions of relevant laws, regulations and other requirements.	
2.3	*Create a water stewardship strategy and plan including addressing risks (to and from the site), shared catchment water challenges, and opportunities.*	
2.3.1	*A water stewardship strategy shall be identified that defines the overarching mission, vision, and goals of the organization towards good water stewardship in line with this AWS Standard.*	✓ Yes

Comment	Midea has developed a water stewardship strategy and announced it on its official website. The strategy expounds Midea's long-term plan for water stewardship in terms of standardized management, corporate social responsibility and implementation of best practices, including: (1) Improve the concept and ability of water saving for all staff, fully implement a complete water management system, and ensure full coverage of production and operation links; (2) Focus on evaluating, developing and practicing technological innovation in water-saving production technology, environment-friendly technology, resource recycling and reclaimed water reuse; (3) Enhance the transparency of water management information and performance, actively participate in or initiate industry initiatives, promote the cooperation of relevant parties, and lead the industry reform; (4) Actively carry out river basin water risk assessment, consider the possible long-term impact of climate change, and formulate corresponding risk management plans and contingency plans.

2.3.2 *A water stewardship plan shall be identified, including for each target:*
- How it will be measured and monitored
- Actions to achieve and maintain (or exceed) it
- Planned timeframes to achieve it
- Financial budgets allocated for actions
- Positions of persons responsible for actions and achieving targets
- Where available, note the link between each target and the achievement of best practice to help address shared water challenges and the AWS outcomes.

Obs.

Comment	Midea has developed a Water Stewardship Plan (Year 2023 and 2024), which specifies targets, required actions, measurement, status, effectiveness evaluation, accountable and deadline, etc. The Water Stewardship Plan is associated with five main outcomes of AWS, including good water governance, sustainable water balance, good water quality status, IWRA and WASH, such as: • Complete the establishing of AWS system and obtain the certification; • Improve staff's water management awareness through training; • Improve the indirect water use performance of the site by carrying out water management training for suppliers; • Through continuous process improvement, the total water consumption per unit product in 2024 should decrease by 10% compared to 2023. • The pollutant total quantity of the discharged wastewater meets 100% of the internal control requirements of the site, and the wastewater internal control index of Midea is stricter than the wastewater discharge permit requirements. • Use WBCSD to evaluate the WASH of the site and reach 90% or above. • Monitor the water quality of the site IWRA, conduct monitoring quarterly by internal and trust external agencies to test the water quality yearly.

2.3.3 *Advanced Indicator*
The site's partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites within the same catchment (which may or may not be under the same organisational ownership) shall be identified and described.

Yes

Comment	In August 2024, Midea as an organizer, organized 'river patrol' activity in Baiyan Lake and Xiangzhang Lake with one supplier and one neighbor company, totally 11 persons attended the activity. In March 2023, Midea shared the water management experience with one supplier nearby within the same catchment to monitor water use and help them establish water management system.
Score	4

2.3.4 *Advanced Indicator*
The site's partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites in another catchment(s) (either under same corporate structure or with another corporate site) shall be identified.

Yes

Comment	In August 2024, Midea organized a sharing seminar on sustainable water stewardship to share its experience in carrying out AWS with brother companies in another catchment.	
Score	4	
2.3.5	*Advanced Indicator* *Stakeholder consensus shall be sought on the site's water stewardship plan. Consensus should be achieved on at least one target. A list of targets that have consensus and in which stakeholders are involved shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Midea communicates its sustainable water stewardship plan with various stakeholders through face to face, interviews, and questionnaires, including wastewater treatment service provider, freshwater service provider, local ecological environment bureaus and enterprises. For example, Midea communicates its sustainable water management performance with Hefei City water affairs Bureau, and the responsible person of Hefei City water affairs Bureau stated that they would support the sustainable water stewardship of Midea and provided the improvement suggestions to Midea via the interview, the stakeholders also give high praise to the actions and targets in the water stewardship plan.	
Score	7	
2.4	*Demonstrate the site's responsiveness and resilience to respond to water risks*	
2.4.1	*A plan to mitigate or adapt to identified water risks developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Midea has identified its water risks, and corresponding strategies to mitigate water risks are developed. The site developed these via study of the government's water-related plan or consultation with the government.	
2.4.2	*Advanced Indicator* *A plan to mitigate or adapt to water risks associated with climate change projections developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	

3	STEP 3: IMPLEMENT - Implement the site's stewardship plan and improve impacts

3.1 *Implement plan to participate positively in catchment governance.*

3.1.1 *Evidence that the site has supported good catchment governance shall be identified.* ✓ Yes

Comment
1. Midea actively cooperates with the government supervision department to conduct supervisory inspections and visits.
2. Midea respectively selected two points at Baiyan Lake and Xiangzhang Lake (the final receiving body of rainwater of the site), and regularly monitors the water quality of the two lakes and the discharge point of Pai River (which receives the wastewater of off-site ETP), and the test parameters include pH, COD, Ammonia nitrogen and total phosphorus, etc.) according to the national standard Surface Water Environmental Quality Standard GB 3838-2002.
3. Midea actively cooperates with various government-led water-related plans, such as water application, water balance test, annual industrial water reuse rate survey, cleaner production audit, and water-saving personnel training.
4. Midea shared their AWS system and Water Stewardship Plan with local government, such as Hefei City High-Tech Zone Ecological Environmental Bureau and Water Affair Bureau.

3.1.2 *Measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, that are not part of 3.2 shall be implemented.* ✓ Yes

Comment
The water rights are respected under legal and regulatory mechanisms, and there is no indigenous people in the catchment area.

3.1.3 *Advanced Indicator*
Evidence of improvements in water governance capacity from a site-selected baseline date shall be identified. ✓ Yes

Comment
1. Midea has developed its own sustainable water stewardship operation procedure, QMK-GDZ12.0001, to standardize its water management activities.
2. Midea has established an Environment and Water Stewardship Committee to coordinate its environmental and water management related affairs. An organization chart of the environment and water stewardship management team established, including the manager representative of the water stewardship and the responsible department.
3. In October 2024, Midea were invited to participated in the AWS forum in Shanghai to share the water management experience.

Score
2

3.1.4 *Advanced Indicator*
Evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the good water governance of the catchment shall be identified. ✓ Yes

Comment
1.In August 2022, Midea was awarded the honor of "Anhui Provincial Green Factory " by Anhui Province Industry and Information Technology Department.
2. In March 2023, Midea was awarded the honor of " National Green Factory " by National Industry and Information Technology Department.
3. In March 2024, Midea applied for the “Water-saving enterprise”, and obtained the preliminary approval. The Sustainable Water Management Internal Online Platform is installed and used for daily water management. The intelligent water meters are installed in whole factory to monitor the water use.

Score
2

3.2 *Implement system to comply with water-related legal and regulatory requirements and respect water rights.*

3.2.1 *A process to verify full legal and regulatory compliance shall be implemented.* — No

Comment: Midea has established a procedure to ensure the operation of Midea meet the provisions of relevant laws, regulations and other requirements. Midea timely obtains updated information on laws and regulations and conducts compliance evaluation on laws and regulations every year and keeps records. According to IPE and monitoring reports, the facility operated in accordance with laws and regulations.

Finding No: TNR-013833

3.2.2 *Where water rights are part of legal and regulatory requirements, measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, shall be implemented.* — Yes

Comment: Midea has established a procedure to ensure the operation of Midea meet the provisions of relevant laws, regulations and other requirements. Midea timely obtains updated information on laws and regulations and conducts compliance evaluation on laws and regulations every year and keeps records.
The site has developed a water quality monitoring plan, including rainwater, discharged wastewater, groundwater, soil to ensure that the drainage water quality and pollutant concentrations in groundwater and soil meet the requirements of laws and regulations. Midea has established water quality pollution management regulations, which include outsourced monitoring requirements for discharged water quality, including parameters and frequency. Midea has installed online monitoring facilities at the wastewater discharge outlet to monitor the parameters of the discharged wastewater in real time.

3.3 *Implement plan to achieve site water balance targets.*

3.3.1 *Status of progress towards meeting water balance targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.* — Yes

Comment: The site has developed a Water Stewardship Plan (Year 2023 and 2024) improvement action list, which specifies targets, required actions, measurement, status, effectiveness evaluation, accountable and deadline, etc.
1. Midea has set targets for freshwater used was reduced to be more than 10% in its WSP. The site tracks its freshwater use amount on a monthly basis.
2. Midea has set an annual target of water usage is less than the government's water abstraction limits of 2436112 tons/year in 2023 and 2024 in its WSP and tracks the progress of its water usage target on a monthly basis.
Midea has developed a proposal for improving water balance in 2023, with improvement measures approved, involving topics such as optimizing production processes to save water consumption and improve wastewater utilization, such as:
(1) Strengthen the publicity of the importance of water conservation, strengthen the education of workers' sense of water crisis, and enhance their awareness of water conservation, so as to save water for everyone and everywhere.
(2) Actively promote the use of monitoring platform to monitor all water consumption points in the whole plant, which will promote the subsequent analysis of water consumption, comparison of water consumption in each link and improvement of water consumption ledger.
(3) Improve the factory water account, make statistics once a week, establish a water account and analyze it, find out the links with large water consumption by comparison, and analyze whether there are any unexpected situations such as leakage or equipment damage, so as to find out the links and time points with abnormal water consumption more accurately.
(4) The test water reuse technology needs to be popularized, and whether it can be reused or not should be considered in all aspects of water use to improve the reuse rate of water.

3.3.2 *Where water scarcity is a shared water challenge, annual targets to improve the site's water use efficiency, or if practical and applicable, reduce volumetric total use shall be implemented.* — Yes

Comment	The site has developed a Water Stewardship Plan (Year 2023 and 2024) improvement action list, which specifies targets, required actions, measurement, status, effectiveness evaluation, accountable and deadline, etc. 1. Midea has set targets for freshwater used was reduced to be more than 10% in its WSP. The site tracks its freshwater use amount on a monthly basis. 2. Midea has set an annual target of water usage is less than the government's water abstraction limits of 2436112 tons/year in 2023 and 2024 in its WSP and tracks the progress of its water usage target on a monthly basis. According to the data statistics and analysis records provided by the site, annual total water intake trend: 1259112 tons in 2022; 1075079 tons in 2023.	
3.3.3	*Legally-binding documentation, if applicable, for the re-allocation of water to social, cultural or environmental needs shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Legally-binding documentation for the re-allocation of water to social, cultural or environmental needs is not applicable in the catchment.	
3.3.4	*Advanced Indicator* *The total volume of water voluntarily re-allocated (from site water savings) for social, cultural and environmental needs shall be quantified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
3.4	*Implement plan to achieve site water quality targets*	
3.4.1	*Status of progress towards meeting water quality targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	A series of water stewardship plans are implemented to achieve the site's water quality targets. According to the water quality monitoring plan, the site entrusts a third-party laboratory to test its various water quality. According to the test report and analysis record provided by the site, the water quality is 100% in line with its internal control standard. Midea has developed a management procedure for pollutant concentration in wastewater discharge and established internal control indicators that are stricter than the discharge permit. The specific details are as follows: Internal control index of discharged wastewater: SS 250 mg/L; NH3-N 35 mg/L; COD 350 mg/L; TP 6 mg/L; PH 6.0-9.0; TN 60 mg/L; anion surfactant 20 mg/L, and achieving 100% of the internal control targets by 2023. Through the wastewater treatment station renovation and production process improvement, Midea decreases the NH3-N discharge more than 40% in 2023 compared with 2022.	
3.4.2	*Where water quality is a shared water challenge, continual improvement to achieve best practice for the site's effluent shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	Yes
Comment	According to the water quality monitoring plan, the site entrusts a third-party laboratory to test its various water quality. According to the test report and analysis record provided by the site, the water quality is 100% in line with its internal control standard. Midea has developed a management procedure for pollutant concentration in wastewater discharge and established internal control indicators that are stricter than the discharge permit. The specific details are as follows: Internal control index of discharged wastewater: SS 250 mg/L; NH3-N 35 mg/L; COD 350 mg/L; TP 6 mg/L; PH 6.0-9.0; TN 60 mg/L; anion surfactant 20 mg/L (Permit requirements: GB 8978-1996 discharge level 3 standard: SS 400 mg/L; NH3-N No limit; COD 500 mg/L; TP No limit; PH 6.0-9.0; TN No limit; anion surfactant 20 mg/L). The site tracks the progress of its Water Stewardship targets regularly.	
3.5	*Implement plan to maintain or improve the site's and/or catchment's Important Water-Related Areas.*	
3.5.1	*Practices set in the water stewardship plan to maintain and/or enhance the site's Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.*	Yes

Comment	Midea regularly monitors the water quality of the Baiyan Lake and Xiangzhang Lake (the final receiving body of rainwater of the site) and the discharge point of Pai River (which receives the wastewater of off-site ETP) and trusts external agencies to test the water quality of the above areas every year according to the national standard: Surface Water Environmental Quality Standard GB 3838-2002.	
3.5.2	*Advanced Indicator* *Evidence of completed restoration of non-functioning or severely degraded Important Water-Related Areas including where appropriate cultural values from a site-selected baseline date shall be identified. Restored areas may be outside of the site, but within the catchment.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
3.5.3	*Advanced Indicator* *Evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the healthy status of Important Water-Related Areas in the catchment shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
3.6	*Implement plan to provide access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers at all premises under the site's control.*	
3.6.1	*Evidence of the site's provision of adequate access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers onsite shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	Yes
Comment	1. The WASH installations fully comply with the national "Hygienic Standards for the Design of Industrial Enterprises" (GBZ 1-2010). 2. Midea conducts WBCSD self-assessment to evaluate the level of onsite WASH and the final result was 95%. 3. Midea carried out a questionnaire survey on employee satisfaction regarding drinking water, sanitation, and facilities, and according to the survey results, the satisfaction score was about 76.8%, and the site conducted correction according to the survey, such as adding washing liquid in toilets. 4. Midea conducts regular testing of drinking water and secondary water supply to ensure safe drinking water. 5. Sanitation and hygiene installations were checked and cleaned daily, water purifiers were checked daily and maintained when needed.	
3.6.2	*Evidence that the site is not impinging on the human right to safe water and sanitation of communities through their operations, and that traditional access rights for indigenous and local communities are being respected, and that remedial actions are in place where this is not the case, and that these are effective.*	Yes
Comment	No evidence is showed that the site is impinging on the human right to safe water and sanitation of communities through their operations according to the interviews with the site's employees, local community and local government authorities.	
3.6.3	*Advanced Indicator* *A list of actions taken to support the provision to stakeholders in the catchment of access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	

3.6.4	*Advanced Indicator:* *In catchments where WASH has been identified as a shared water challenge, evidence of efforts taken with relevant public-sector agencies to share information and to advocate for change to address access to safe drinking water and sanitation shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
3.7	*Implement plan to maintain or improve indirect water use within the catchment:*	
3.7.1	*Evidence that indirect water use targets set in the water stewardship plan, as applicable, have been met shall be quantified.*	Yes
Comment	Indirect water use targets have been set in the water stewardship plan. 1. Midea conducted onsite assessment and data collection on water use of 52 material suppliers and 7 waste treatment vendors and promote them to reduce the water use to reduce the indirect water use. 2. Midea has screened suppliers /service providers' IPE violation records and promoted them to provide feedback to the IPE platform (a well-known environmental information disclosure platform in China) and remove the violation records.	
3.7.2	*Evidence of engagement with suppliers and service providers, as well as, when applicable, actions they have taken in the catchment as a result of the site's engagement related to indirect water use, shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Indirect water use targets have been set in the water stewardship plan. 1. Midea conducted a questionnaire survey on its existing top 52 suppliers and analyzed their indirect water use based on the survey questionnaire. Based on the water risk assessment results of the suppliers, one key supplier (outside the catchment) was selected to be kept attention. 2. Midea has screened suppliers/service providers' IPE violation records and promoted them to provide feedback to the IPE platform (a well-known environmental information disclosure platform in China) and remove the violation records. 3. The site conducts on-site audits of its hazardous waste treatment service providers every year, covering topics related to environmental management. In 2023, the site conducted on-site audit on 7 waste treatment service providers. For the findings found during the audit, the site will promote the suppliers to follow up and rectify them.	
3.7.3	*Advanced Indicator* *Actions taken to address water related risks and challenges related to indirect water use outside the catchment shall be documented and evaluated.*	Yes
Comment	Indirect water use targets have been set in the water stewardship plan. 1. Midea conducted a questionnaire survey on its existing top 52 suppliers and analyzed their indirect water use based on the survey questionnaire. Based on the water risk assessment results of the suppliers, one key supplier (outside the catchment) was selected to be kept attention. 2. Midea has screened suppliers /service providers' IPE violation records and promoted them to provide feedback to the IPE platform (a well-known environmental information disclosure platform in China) and remove the violation records. 3. The site conducts on-site audits of its suppliers/service providers every year, covering topics related to environmental management. In 2023, the site conducted on-site audit on 20 suppliers/service providers. For the findings found during the audit, the site will promote the suppliers to follow up and rectify them.	
Score	6	
3.8	*Implement plan to engage with and notify the owners of any shared water-related infrastructure of any concerns the site may have.*	

3.8.1	*Evidence of engagement, and the key messages relayed with confirmation of receipt, shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site actively cooperates with the government supervision department to conduct supervisory inspections and visits. The site keeps close contact with local water-related infrastructure owners through many ways such as WeChat or phone call.	
3.9	*Implement actions to achieve best practice towards AWS outcomes: continually improve towards achieving sectoral best practice having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance.*	
3.9.1	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to water governance, as applicable, shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	1. The site has developed its own sustainable water stewardship operation procedure, QMK-GDZ12.0001, to standardize its water management activities. 2. In August 2022, Midea was awarded the honor of "Anhui Provincial Green Factory " by Anhui Province Industry and Information Technology Department. 3. In March 2023, Midea was awarded the honor of " National Green Factory " by National Industry and Information Technology Department. 4. Midea has established an Environment and Water Stewardship Committee to coordinate its environmental and water management related affairs. An organization chart of the environment and water stewardship management team is included in the sustainable water stewardship operation procedure, including the manager representative of the environment and water stewardship, the responsible department and person.	
3.9.2	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water balance shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	1. Midea has set targets for freshwater used in 2024, to be reduced 10% compared with 2023. The site tracks its freshwater use amount on a monthly basis. 2. Midea has developed a proposal for improving water balance in 2023, with improvement measures approved, involving topics such as optimizing production processes to save water consumption and improve wastewater utilization, such as: (1) Strengthen the publicity of the importance of water conservation, strengthen the education of workers' sense of water crisis, and enhance their awareness of water conservation, so as to save water for everyone and everywhere. (2) Actively promote the use of monitoring platform to monitor all water consumption points in the whole plant, which will promote the subsequent analysis of water consumption, comparison of water consumption in each link and improvement of water consumption ledger. (3) Improve the factory water account, make statistics once a week, establish a water account and analyze it, find out the links with large water consumption by comparison, and analyze whether there are any unexpected situations such as leakage or equipment damage, so as to find out the links and time points with abnormal water consumption more accurately. (4) The test water reuse technology needs to be popularized, and whether it can be reused or not should be considered in all aspects of water use to improve the reuse rate of water. According to the data statistics and analysis records provided by the site, annual total water intake trend: 1259112 tons in 2022; 1075079 tons in 2023.	
3.9.3	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water quality shall be implemented.*	Yes

Comment	1. Midea has developed a management procedure for pollutant concentration in wastewater discharge and established internal control indicators that are stricter than the discharge permit. The specific details are as follows: Internal control index of discharged wastewater: SS 250 mg/L; NH3-N 35 mg/L; COD 350 mg/L; TP 6 mg/L; PH 6.0-9.0; TN 60 mg/L; anion surfactant 20 mg/L (Permit requirements: GB 8978-1996 discharge level 3 standard: SS 400 mg/L; NH3-N No limit; COD 500 mg/L; TP No limit; PH 6.0-9.0; TN No limit; anion surfactant 20 mg/L). According to the test report and analysis record provided by the site, the water quality is 100% in line with its internal control standard. 2. Through the wastewater treatment station renovation and production process improvement, Midea decreases the NH3-N discharge more than 40% in 2023 compared with 2022. 3. Midea completed the spraying technology renovation to reduce the water use and wastewater discharge from the production process and reduce the load on the wastewater treatment station.	
3.9.4	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of the site's maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	1. Midea regularly monitors the water quality of the Baiyan Lake and Xiangzhang Lake (the final receiving body of rainwater of the site) and the discharge point of Pai River (which receives the wastewater of off-site ETP) and trusts external agencies to test the water quality of the above areas every year according to the national standard: Surface Water Environmental Quality Standard GB 3838-2002. 2. In August 2024, Midea as an organizer, organized 'river patrol' activity in Baiyan Lake and Xiangzhang Lake with one supplier and one neighbor company, totally 11 persons attended the activity.	
3.9.5	*Actions towards achieving best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	1. The WASH installations fully comply with the national "Hygienic Standards for the Design of Industrial Enterprises" (GBZ 1-2010). 2. Midea conducts WBCSD self-assessment to evaluate the level of onsite WASH and the final result was 95%. 3. Midea carried out a questionnaire survey on employee satisfaction regarding drinking water, sanitation, and facilities, and according to the survey results, the satisfaction was about 76.8%, and the site conducted correction according to the survey, such as adding washing liquid in toilets. 4. Midea conducts regular testing of drinking water and secondary water supply to ensure safe drinking water.	
3.9.6	*Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of good water governance shall be quantified.*	Yes
Comment	The site has quantified the performance of the targets set in the Water stewardship plan which includes Best Practice such as 1. The site has developed its own sustainable water stewardship operation procedure, QMK-GDZ12.0001, to standardize its water management activities. 2. In August 2022, Midea was awarded the honor of "Anhui Provincial Green Factory " by Anhui Province Industry and Information Technology Department. 3. In March 2023, Midea was awarded the honor of " National Green Factory " by National Industry and Information Technology Department. 4. In October 2024, Midea was awarded the honor of "Sustainability Lighthouses" by The World Economic Forum.	
Score	8	
3.9.7	*Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of sustainable water balance shall be quantified.*	Yes

Comment	The site has quantified the performance of the targets set in the Water stewardship plan which includes Best Practice such as 1. Midea has set targets for freshwater used in 2024, to be reduced 10% compared with 2023. The site tracks its freshwater use amount on a monthly basis. 2. Midea has developed a proposal for improving water balance in 2023, with improvement measures approved, involving topics such as optimizing production processes to save water consumption and improve wastewater utilization, such as: (1) Strengthen the publicity of the importance of water conservation, strengthen the education of workers' sense of water crisis, and enhance their awareness of water conservation, so as to save water for everyone and everywhere. (2) Actively promote the use of monitoring platform to monitor all water consumption points in the whole plant, which will promote the subsequent analysis of water consumption, comparison of water consumption in each link and improvement of water consumption ledger. (3) Improve the factory water account, make statistics once a week, establish a water account and analyze it, find out the links with large water consumption by comparison, and analyze whether there are any unexpected situations such as leakage or equipment damage, so as to find out the links and time points with abnormal water consumption more accurately. (4) The test water reuse technology needs to be popularized, and whether it can be reused or not should be considered in all aspects of water use to improve the reuse rate of water. According to the data statistics and analysis records provided by the site, annual total water intake trend: 1259112 tons in 2022; 1075079 tons in 2023. 3. The site's water consumption performance is 0.07 m3 per production unit, which compliance with the advanced level (0.5 m3 per production unit) of “clean production assessment indicator system of laundry machine industry”. So, the performance could reach the advance level of the industry.
Score	8

3.9.8	*Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of water quality shall be quantified*	Yes

Comment	The site has quantified the performance of the targets set in the Water stewardship plan which includes Best Practice such as: 1. Midea has developed a water quality monitoring plan and commissioned third-party laboratories to test the water quality of various sources, including drinking water, secondary water supply systems, discharged water, and water quality of lakes around the site. 2. Midea has installed a series of online water quality detection systems to monitor inflow and outflow in real-time, such as monitoring pH, conductivity, turbidity at the recycled water, to ensure that the recycled water meets the water quality requirements of the Midea water management system; monitor SS, NH3-N, COD, TP, PH, TN, anion surfactant at the total wastewater discharge outlet. 3. Midea has developed a management procedure for pollutant concentration in wastewater discharge and established internal control indicators that are stricter than the discharge permit. The specific details are as follows: Internal control index of discharged wastewater: SS 250 mg/L; NH3-N 35 mg/L; COD 350 mg/L; TP 6 mg/L; PH 6.0-9.0; TN 60 mg/L; anion surfactant 20 mg/L (Permit requirements: GB 8978-1996 discharge level 3 standard: SS 400 mg/L; NH3-N No limit; COD 500 mg/L; TP No limit; PH 6.0-9.0; TN No limit; anion surfactant 20 mg/L). According to the test report and analysis record provided by the site, the water quality is 100% in line with its internal control standard. 4. Through the wastewater treatment station renovation and production process improvement, Midea decreases the NH3-N discharge more than 40% in 2023 compared with 2022. 5. Midea completed the spraying technology renovation to reduce the water use and wastewater discharge from the production process and reduce the load on the wastewater treatment station.
Score	8

3.9.9	*Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of the site’s maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas have been implemented.*	N/A

Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.

3.9.10 *Advanced Indicator*
Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be quantified.
Yes

Comment	According to the water quality monitoring plan, the site entrusts a third-party laboratory to test its various water quality. According to the test report and analysis record provided by the site, the water quality is 100% in line with its internal control standard. 1. Midea conducts WBCSD self-assessment to evaluate the level of onsite WASH and the final result was 95%. 2. Midea carried out a questionnaire survey on employee satisfaction regarding drinking water, sanitation, and facilities, and according to the survey results, the satisfaction score was about 76.8%, and the site conducted correction according to the survey, such as adding washing liquid in toilets. In addition, Midea has also set up a variety of channels to collect employees' opinions and suggestions on their WASH and follow up this feedback in a timely manner, such as: • The site conducts an employee satisfaction survey through questionnaires every year, summarizes and analyzes the survey results, and develops an action plan based on employee feedback. • The site conducts satisfaction survey for the employee restaurant regularly, and the employees can feedback their opinions on the restaurant hygiene, food safety and other aspects at any time.
Score	4

3.9.11 *Advanced Indicator*
A list of efforts to spread best practices shall be identified.
Yes

Comment	1. Midea obtains the ISO45001 certificate and shared their energy management in the energy meeting organized by the government. 2. Midea regularly shared the AWS management experience to other sites of the same group within other catchments. The training records were provided for review. 3. In October 2024, Midea were invited to participated in the AWS forum in Shanghai to share the water management experience.
Score	5

3.9.12 *Advanced Indicator*
A list of collective action efforts, including the organizations involved, positions of responsible persons of other entities involved, and a description of the role played by the site shall be identified.
Yes

Comment	The site joined a cross-catchment initiatives named "River Patrol Bao", which aiming to encourage the people to perform river patrol for local river, to monitor the status and report any abnormal. In August 2024, Midea as an organizer, organized a riverbank cleaning activity in Baiyan Lake and Xiangzhang Lake with one supplier and one neighbor company, totally 11 persons attended the activity. Via this activity, the site raised the awareness of local stakeholder to care about the local river and became a local pioneer of this cross-catchment initiatives.
Score	8

3.9.13 *Advanced Indicator*
Evidence of the quantified improvement that has resulted from the collective action relative to a site-selected baseline date shall be identified and evidence from an appropriate range of stakeholders linked to the collective action (including both those implementing the action and those affected by the action) that the site is materially and positively contributing to the achievement of the collective action shall be identified.
N/A

Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.

4	STEP 4: EVALUATE - Evaluate the site's performance.	
4.1	*Evaluate the site's performance in light of its actions and targets from its water stewardship plan and demonstrate its contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes.*	
4.1.1	*Performance against targets in the site's water stewardship plan and the contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes shall be evaluated.*	Yes
Comment	A management review was conducted on April 7, 2024 to summarize the overall environmental performance in 2023, and the environmental performance in 2023 was summarized, which included water stewardship. review water stewardship plan and check each performance of targets in the plan.	
4.1.2	*Value creation resulting from the water stewardship plan shall be evaluated.*	Yes
Comment	The site analyzed its value creation resulting from the implementation of water stewardship plan, especially the implementation of water-saving projects. For example, Midea implemented a total of 5 water-saving projects in 2023, including increasing the proportion of recycled water and reduce the use of spraying process in production processes to reduce the water intake and wastewater discharge. As of 2023, Midea has reduced water consumption by 184,033 tons and reduced water costs about RMB 625,000.	
4.1.3	*The shared value benefits in the catchment shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	No
Comment	The site analysed its value creation resulting from the implementation of water stewardship plan, especially the implementation of water-saving projects. For example, Midea implemented a total of 5 water-saving projects in 2023, including increasing the proportion of recycled water and reduce the use of spraying process in production processes to reduce the water intake and wastewater discharge. As of 2023, Midea has reduced water consumption by 184,033 tons and reduced water costs about RMB 625,000.	
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4.1.4	*Advanced Indicator* *A governance or executive-level review, including discussion of shared water challenges, water risks, and opportunities, and any water-related cost savings or benefits realized, and any relevant incidents shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Mr. Zewei Shu, the Factory General Manager of Midea attended the management review of 2023 environmental performance in April 2024, participated in the discussion of the review meeting, and was responsible for signing off the results of the review.	
Score	3	
4.2	*Evaluate the impacts of water-related emergency incidents (including extreme events), if any occurred, and determine the effectiveness of corrective and preventative measures.*	
4.2.1	*A written annual review and (where appropriate) root-cause analysis of the year's emergency incident(s) shall be prepared and the site's response to the incident(s) shall be evaluated and proposed preventative and corrective actions and mitigations against future incidents shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site presents its emergency response procedure and plan identifying proposed preventive and corrective actions, as well as measures to mitigate future incidents. No water-related emergencies and extreme events occurred at the site in recent years.	

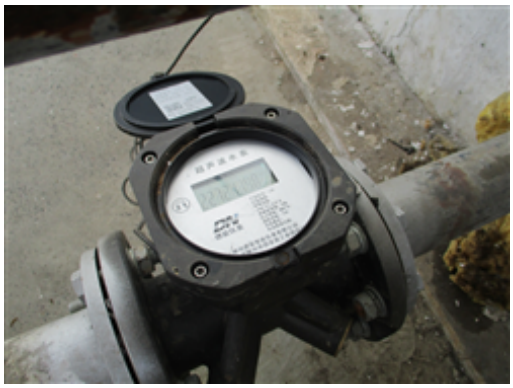
4.3	*Evaluate stakeholders' consultation feedback regarding the site's water stewardship performance, including the effectiveness of the site's engagement process.*	
4.3.1	*Consultation efforts with stakeholders on the site's water stewardship performance shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site communicated its water stewardship performance for 2023, involving with the local environmental protection bureau and wastewater treatment infrastructure, communities, surrounding enterprises, water supply infrastructure, suppliers, employees, etc.	
4.3.2	*Advanced Indicator* *The site's efforts to address shared water challenges shall be evaluated by stakeholders. This shall include stakeholder reviewing of the site's efforts across all five outcome areas, and their suggestions for continual improvement.*	Yes
Comment	The site communicated its water stewardship performance for 2023, involving with the local environmental protection bureau and wastewater treatment infrastructure, communities, surrounding enterprises, water supply infrastructure, suppliers, employees, etc. For example, Midea communicates its sustainable water management performance with Hefei City water affairs Bureau, and the responsible person of Hefei City water affairs Bureau stated that they would support the sustainable water stewardship of Midea and provided the improvement suggestions to Midea. Via the interview, the stakeholders also give high praise to the actions and targets in the water stewardship plan. This reviewing included the site's efforts across all five outcome areas.	
Score	6	
4.4	*Evaluate and update the site's water stewardship plan, incorporating the information obtained from the evaluation process in the context of continual improvement.*	
4.4.1	*The site's water stewardship plan shall be modified and adapted to incorporate any relevant information and lessons learned from the evaluations in this step and these changes shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Midea has developed the sustainable water stewardship operation procedure, QMK-GDZ12.0001, which specifies that its water stewardship plan shall be modified and adapted to incorporate any relevant information and lessons learned from the evaluations' procedure. Midea developed the WSP of year 2024 according to this procedure and make the tracking for all indicators continually.	

5	**STEP 5: COMMUNICATE & DISCLOSE - Communicate about water stewardship and disclose the site's stewardship efforts**	
5.1	*Disclose water-related internal governance of the site's management, including the positions of those accountable for legal compliance with water-related local laws and regulations.*	
5.1.1	*The site's water-related internal governance, including positions of those accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations shall be disclosed.*	Yes
Comment	The site disclosed the site's internal governance in relation to water, communication on sustainable water management issues on its official wechat account. https://weixin.qq.com/sph/ArPN1QbwS	
5.2	*Communicate the water stewardship plan with relevant stakeholders.*	
5.2.1	*The water stewardship plan, including how the water stewardship plan contributes to AWS Standard outcomes, shall be communicated to relevant stakeholders.*	Yes
Comment	The site conducted communication meeting with governments, suppliers and employees about water stewardship plan and the measures. The questionnaire feedback forms were provided.	
5.3	*Disclose annual site water stewardship summary, including: the relevant information about the site's annual water stewardship performance and results against the site's targets.*	
5.3.1	*A summary of the site's water stewardship performance, including quantified performance against targets, shall be disclosed annually at a minimum.*	Yes
Comment	The site disclosed the water stewardship performance of 2023, including quantified performance against targets on its offcial wechat account. https://weixin.qq.com/sph/ArPN1QbwS	
5.3.2	*Advanced Indicator* *The site's efforts to implement the AWS Standard shall be disclosed in the organization's annual report.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
5.3.3	*Advanced Indicator* *Benefits to the site and stakeholders from implementation of the AWS Standard shall be quantified in the organization's annual report.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
5.4	*Disclose efforts to collectively address shared water challenges, including: associated efforts to address the challenges;engagement with stakeholders; and co-ordination with public-sector agencies.*	
5.4.1	*The site's shared water-related challenges and efforts made to address these challenges shall be disclosed.*	Yes
Comment	The site disclosed the shared water-related challenges and the effort to address shared water challenges on its official account.	
5.4.2	*Efforts made by the site to engage stakeholders and coordinate and support public-sector agencies shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment	"The site disclosed the effort to address shared water challenges, internal governance in relation to water, communication on sustainable water management issues on its official wechat account. https://weixin.qq.com/sph/ArPN1QbwS They also shared the related information during visiting of the stakeholder like High-tech Industrial Zone Management Committee, wastewater treatment and water supply infrastructure and government agencies."	
5.5	*Communicate transparency in water-related compliance: make any site water-related compliance violations available upon request as well as any corrective actions the site has taken to prevent future occurrences.*	
5.5.1	*Any site water-related compliance violations and associated corrections shall be disclosed.*	Yes
Comment	A procedure to manage non-conformance and related corrective action is developed, there is no water-related compliance violation identified in past few years.	
5.5.2	*Necessary corrective actions taken by the site to prevent future occurrences shall be disclosed if applicable.*	Yes
Comment	A procedure to manage non-conformance and related corrective action is developed, there is no water-related compliance violation identified in past few years.	
5.5.3	*Any site water-related violation that may pose significant risk and threat to human or ecosystem health shall be immediately communicated to relevant public agencies and disclosed.*	Yes
Comment	A procedure to manage non-conformance and related corrective action is developed, there is no water-related compliance violation identified in past few years.	

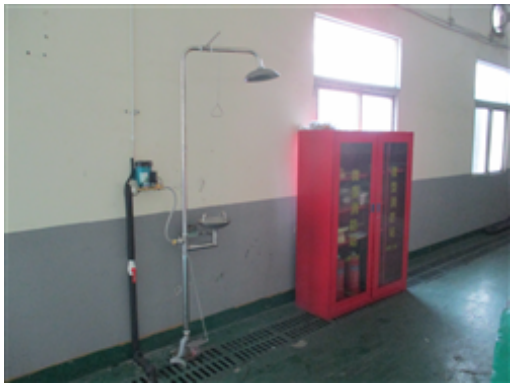
Photographic Evidence from Audit

Yes



Intelligent water meters.JPG

Industrial waste storage area.JPG

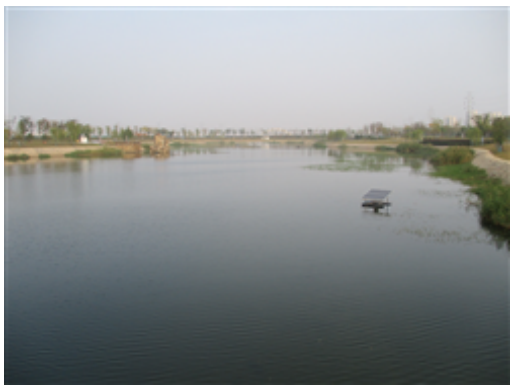


Emergency shower station.JPG

Chemical storage area.JPG

Xiangzhang Lake.JPG

Cooling tower.JPG



Pai River.JPG

Washing wastewater recycled for use.JPG

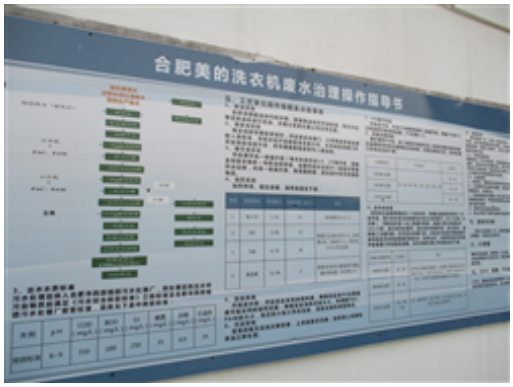
Baiyan Lake.JPG

Washing test center.JPG

Spraying production line.JPG

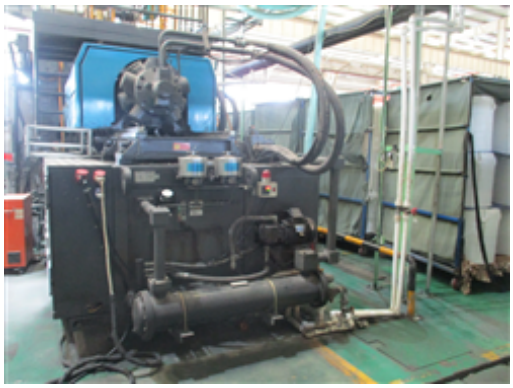
Hazardous waste storage area.JPG

Wastewater treatment station.JPG

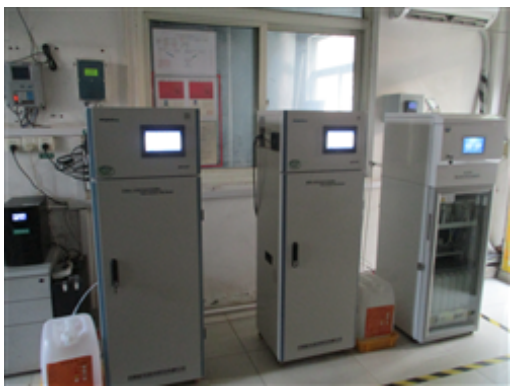


Wastewater treatment schematic diagram.JPG

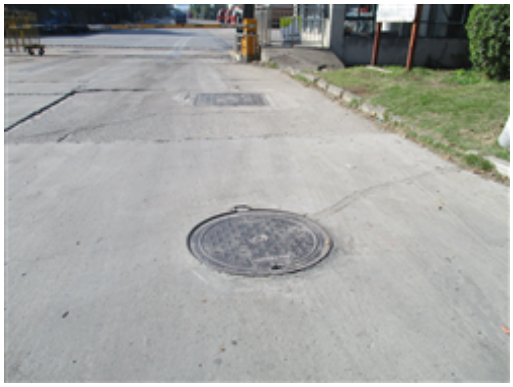
Industrial wastewater discharge outlet.JPG



Cooling water reuse.JPG



Industrial wastewater online monitoring.JPG



Rainwater discharge point.JPG

Upgrade or Downgrade of Certification

Justification for Upgrade or Downgrade

Summary of Evidence which led to change

Previous Findings

All non-conformities raised in the previous audit have been satisfactorily closed.

N/A