

Ensuring Accessibility to Products and Services

Hitachi's Approach

ISO 26000 provides guidelines for corporate social responsibility. It identifies such core consumer issues as “fair marketing, factual and unbiased information,” and “access to essential services,” and calls on corporations to actively take measures addressing these. It is the base of our CSR management framework, and in applying it we are working to improve our products and services to make them broadly accessible to society through such activities as the appropriate disclosure of product information and the promotion of universal design.

As symbolized by the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, worldwide interest is growing in achieving a more sustainable society, such as by supporting the economic growth and higher living standards of emerging economies. We, too, are enhancing our business structure to contribute to the development of these economies, developing products and services to meet new social needs and engaging in active marketing activities carrying out our Social Innovation Business.

Universal Design

We promote universal design (UD) with a focus on three aspects of our products: their quality of use, their accessibility, and their entire life cycle. Quality of use means focusing on the traits that make people feel that the product is easy and enjoyable to make a part of their lives. Accessibility refers to the range of people who can use a product or service. And life cycle covers all the customer-relevant stages of the value chain, from product purchase through to disposal.

We conduct basic research on users' behavioral and cognitive characteristics to formulate UD guidelines and reflect these in product development, incorporating input from users and experts at every stage. The information obtained during product development goes into a database shared by our businesses in Japan. We also distribute some of this information externally to promote open-source standardization and education.

We incorporate UD considerations as a fundamental component of home and digital appliance product design. During the development of the front loading washer-dryer machines released by Hitachi Appliances in 2017, we modified the 2016 UD-conscious models to further improve the product's performance, including increased capacity and extended range of functions.

Based on usability testing of the previous year's model, we built on earlier exploration of button layouts for more intuitive operation and angles for superior visibility to further enhance operational simplicity and usability by clarifying functional areas. For example, buttons are now aligned horizontally with a display

panel behind each. Maintainability was improved by equipping the dryer filter with a sliding blade, allowing captured dust to be more easily removed.



A front loading washer-dryer machine that incorporates UD-conscious performance improvements.

Product Safety Information Disclosure

Information Disclosure for Safety

Hitachi's Product Safety Assurance Guidelines state that our highest priority is the safety of our customers, and, based on these guidelines, we promote activities to ensure safety across the Group.

As changes in social norms and the environment bring about the need for higher standards of safety, we are crafting even higher safety standards through Group-wide activities to increase trust in Hitachi, sharing the latest practical cases within the Group and cross-evaluating the product-safety activities of each division.

We are also proactively working to disclose safety information on the use of our products and establish the Guide for Preparing User Instruction Manuals in order to improve risk communication with our customers.

Adaptation for Emerging Markets

Product and Service Adaptation for Emerging Markets

As a consequence of their rapid economic development, emerging markets face issues including food shortages, poverty, and environmental and energy concerns, which are attributed to urbanization and population growth. In an effort to seek solutions to these social issues, we are expanding our Social Innovation Business globally.

India is the seventh largest country by area and the second largest by population. With economic development expanding and household income rising nationwide, India's government has launched an ambitious program called Digital India that

aims to digitalize administrative and financial services and provide digital infrastructure to citizens.

In April 2018, Hitachi formed Hitachi MGRM Net by acquiring shares in MGRM Net, a company with a history of successful application development for the government-led "e-Governance" digitalization initiative. Going forward, we will contribute to Digital India by offering solutions in fields such as education, healthcare, agriculture, and insurance, combining the expertise of MGRM Net with our Lumada IoT platform.

In the financial services field, Hitachi Payment Services (1,300 employees as of May 2018) provides services including operation and maintenance of automated teller machines (ATMs*¹) and support for optimal selection of ATM locations. As of May 2018, we manage over 50,000 ATMs and over 800,000 point of sale (POS) service devices.

Additionally, in response to India's strong demand for ATMs and a governmental "Make in India" initiative designed to promote the manufacturing sector, Hitachi established Hitachi Terminal Solutions India (30 employees as of the end of April 2018) as an ATM manufacturing base. Producing highly reliable banknote recycling ATMs using the latest sensing and mechatronics technology developed by Hitachi-Omron Terminal Solutions, the company is aiming at a manufacturing target of 1,500 units per month.

As the Digital India program advances, cashless settlement and other FinTech*² services are expected to grow. Hitachi stands at the forefront of these developments, strengthening its support for cashless settlement services in addition to its existing cash settlement solutions and continuing to contribute to the improvement of India's financial and settlement infrastructure.

Moving forward, we also plan to expand our financial services business in Southeast Asia and other emerging countries.

*1 Here, ATMs are defined to include cash dispensers (CDs).

*2 FinTech: A portmanteau of "financial technology," describing convenient and innovative financial services using IT created from the point of view of customer needs.