

Title: Information for Apes Hodling with Rakuten in Japan

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Dunno how relevant this is going to be for anyone, but figured I'd put the information out there.

I've been hodling a modest bag with Rakuten Securities (■■■■) since last year. Maybe it goes without saying, but I live in Japan.

With the stock split looming, I finally managed to figure out their arcane customer service portal and contacted a representative on chat to ask them whether or not they'll be issuing the split as a dividend or not.

The answer was.. typically vague.

<https://preview.redd.it/82dqezyml091.png?width=471&format=png&auto=webp&s=b04156aec8c465d5bb6cc62f213f325038836d05>

Asking about stock split dividend

DeepL tells me that says:

At this time, we have received no specific information regarding a stock split.

However, in reference to related news, we found an article (Thomson Reuters, 4/1/2022) stating that a GME company announced that it would increase the number of shares in the form of a dividend and allow for a stock split.

Therefore, we believe that this is not our policy but a corporate decision.

When further information is confirmed, it will be posted in the "Stock Information (Stock Split, Reverse Stock Split, etc.)" section of the individual stock screen on our website.

So, yeah. Vague, but promising.

I then asked about voting rights. The results of that were.. less encouraging.

The rep linked me to this page:

<https://faq.rakuten-sec.co.jp/90000134>

Consulting DeepL-sensei again:

We deposit a mixture of shares held by our customers in our name at a local custodian or an intermediary financial institution in a lump sum.

Since the shares are not deposited in the name of individual customers, they cannot directly participate in shareholders' meetings and exercise voting rights.

However, it may be possible to exercise voting rights if all of the following conditions are met

(i) If you are able to express your approval or disapproval of a proposal at a general meeting of shareholders, etc. to the Company by yourself.

(2) When it is possible to exercise split voting rights in accordance with your shareholding in the target shares.

(iii) When the conditions specified by the local custodian or local intermediary financial institution are met.

Even in these cases, it is expected that the procedures will take approximately three to four weeks, and voting rights cannot be exercised after the deadline set by the local custodian or intermediary financial institution. In addition, various fees may be incurred in connection with the procedures.

For details, please contact our Customer Service Center.

Not surprising. While I can't confirm what company (and likely would be told "sensitive corporate secrets" if I asked), I always suspected that Rakuten doesn't actually hold any foreign co. shares themselves.

Which brings me to the final question; can I haz DRS?

This was pretty unequivocal.

[That's a negative, Ghost Rider.](<https://preview.redd.it/axbdmrz8kl091.jpg?width=640&format=jpg&auto=webp&s=3e038eccb80e852ed0a26b68c47e1f53501d83ea>)

They were, of course, far more polite about it.

[Politely, NOPE](<https://preview.redd.it/y8v1ublujl091.png?width=471&format=png&auto=webp&s=3cc9debf454fee46c65f1ce147291e28b94ac421>)

So there you have it.

As I said, not sure how valuable this is to anyone. But if it helps at least one other ape, then mission accomplished.