



Standards Committee Meeting 14 September 2020 Summary notes

Standards Committee participants: Ainsley Butler (co-chair) Cecilia Gardner, Joelle Ponnelle, Phaedon Stamatopoulos, Anouchka Didier, Sara Yood, Jennifer Hillard, Marianna Smirnova, Yves Bertran, Ian Rowe, Diana Culillas, Natalia Zhulina, Jean-Baptiste Andrieu.

Apologies: Stephane Fischler, Didier Backaert, Purvi Shah (co-chair)

RJC Management Team: Peter Dawkins (Standards Manager), Nawal Ait-Hocine (RJC consultant)

Materials circulated in advance of call: Presentation slides, minutes from previous meeting

1. Introduction

Introduction conducted by Ainsley Butler. Ainsley reminded the committee about the RJC's conflict of interest policy and anti-trust statement. A roll call of the committee members was conducted by the RJC Standards Manager. Previous meeting minutes were approved by Jennifer H and Joelle

2. EU recognition application - update

The Standards Committee were provided an update on the current status of RJC's application to become a recognised scheme under the EU legislation on the importing of 3TG into the union. RJC has completed phase 1 and 2, which includes a document review and interviews, both internal and stakeholders. RJC is currently in phase 3 which is the shadow audits being conducted on the site of RJC members who are undergoing the RJC COP audit. RJC is currently in the process of arranging the necessary four shadow audits, however the impact of COVID-19 on the possible members for a shadow audit is noticeable as RJC is having limited feedback, both positive or negative from invited members.

3. Due-diligence Pilot

The standards manager provided the committee an update on the RJC due-diligence pilot for diamonds and coloured gemstones. RJC has released the member toolkit for due diligence on 18 August 2020. The auditor toolkit is now ready to undergo pilot with volunteer audit firms, feedback from this process will input into final draft of auditor toolkit, which is currently with RJC auditors for consultation and will be released later in 2020.

4. Lab taskforce & Coloured gemstone taskforce

An update on the Lab taskforce was detailed to the committee. The taskforce has decided and allocated research projects for volunteer taskforce members. The taskforce co-chairs will be collating research and drafting proposals for the report that will be submitted to the Executive Committee and RJC board. Lab taskforce co-chairs will present project developments at November standards committee meeting. Standards committee can provide comment to co-chair proposals.

The coloured gemstone taskforce has agreed on its first two deliverables to be created by RJC: support for members to engage with suppliers about OECD due diligence requirements and a step-by-step guide for implementing responsible practices. The Chair of this taskforce has also been requested to provide an update at the next standards committee meeting in November.

5. Mining provisions

RJC is conducting an initial and high level review against a number of mining initiative and the standards manager provided an update to the committee on the status of this work.

The IRMA standard is being reviewed and the standards team will be developing considerations for the RJC Officers, including: implications of the adaptation of any provisions to the COP and implications of any areas of differences in approach/position. An update will be shared with Standards Committee at next meeting. The standards department will also be reviewing: a proposed engagement with ICMM to conduct an alignment assessment with the ICMM mining principles; the World Gold Council's Responsible Gold Mining Principles and will be considering the inclusion of the Global Tailings Standard for potential alignment.

6. AOB

The standards manager raised a query relating the RJC's CoC standard, on the returning of sold CoC material, currently once sold to a non-RJC CoC certified entity, the "chain" for that material / product is broken. A member has proposed that if CoC material has an identifying mark applied the material, it can be returned and then sold again as CoC material, without going through the usual CoC process for eligible material i.e. refiner collects materials and processes. There was a number of scenarios raised and queries that needed further time to explore so a separate event will be arranged by the standards manager. External stakeholders will be invited to this call to also contribute to the proposal and to ensure that we have a broad consensus on whether the proposal is achievable and that the CoC can remain robust and credible.

Other points of AOB that the standards committee were updated on were RJC's on-going ISEAL code compliance and the RJC's review of the 2018 reform of the World Diamond Councils System of Warranties. The ISEAL code requires RJC to make small editorial changes to the RJC documents to include information such as version history and that hard copies can be requested but at a "reasonable" cost. The WDC SoW update requires two small amendment to the COP guidance to include two elements previously not included within the COP guidance: 1. A list of hazardous work activities, if conducted by employees under the age of 18; 2. promotion of Intergovernmental Forum (IGF) on Mining's – Mining policy framework and the Moscow and Washington declarations on the KPCS. Finally, the committee were informed of the next standards committee meeting which is on 10 November 2020.