



Summary of revisions to the RJC Code of Practices and Implementing Documents

17 December 2009

The following revisions to the Code of Practices and supporting documents have been developed through a multi-stakeholder engagement process with Members and stakeholders, over 18 months from May 2008 to November 2009. In addition to 3 public comment periods, a Consultative Panel comprising 15 external stakeholders worked closely with the Standards Committee during June to October 2009.

The revisions were approved by the RJC Board on 27 November, 2009. They were publicly released on 17 December, 2009 and are effective from that date.

1. Addition of Mining Supplement standards, applicable to Members with Mining Facilities

The following additional standards, applicable to Members with Mining Facilities in addition to the existing standards, have been added to the Code of Practices:

| COP | Issue | Summary |
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| 1.6 | Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) | Commit to and support implementation of EITI. |
| 2.6.8 | Emergency response plans | Develop and maintain plans in collaboration with potentially affected communities, workers and their representatives and relevant agencies. |
| 2.11.2 | Community engagement | Early and ongoing engagement with affected communities and stakeholders throughout project's lifecycle; broad support for proposals should be sought. |
| 2.11.3 | Resettlement | Avoid or otherwise minimise involuntary resettlement. |
| 2.11.4 | Grievance mechanism | Affected communities have access to rights-compatible complaints and grievance mechanisms at the operational level. |
| 2.12.3 | Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights | Now applicable only to Members with Mining Facilities (not all RJC Members), as the Principles are aimed at the resources sector. |
| 2.13 | Indigenous Peoples | Respect Indigenous Peoples' rights; and seek broad-based support of affected Indigenous Peoples. |
| 2.14 | Artisanal and small-scale mining | Assist professionalisation and formalisation of ASM and engage with ASM, where on or around Facilities. |
| 3.3.4 | Tailings and waste rock management | Not use riverine tailings disposal at new Facilities, and exclude from Certification if at existing Facility; not use submarine tailings disposal except under specific conditions; all other tailings and waste facilities to ensure structural stability and protection of surrounding environment and communities; characterise mining |

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| | | wastes so as to identify and manage potential impacts from acid rock drainage and metal leaching. |
| 3.5 | Biodiversity | Not explore or mine in World Heritage Sites; respect legally designated protected areas; identify Key Biodiversity Areas within operating boundaries and implement biodiversity action plan; not undertake an activity that may lead to extinction of species on IUCN Red List; rehabilitate disturbed land. |
| 4.4 | Impact Assessment | Engage with affected parties to complete environmental and social impacts assessments and associated management plans. |
| 4.5 | Mine closure planning | Mine closure plan as early as possible, and ensure that resources are available to meet closure requirements. Engage regularly with local stakeholders on plans. |
| 4.6 | Sustainability reporting | Annual reporting using the Global Reporting Initiative Guidelines, with external assurance. |

Associated Standards Guidance sections and Assessment Questions (including an Excel version of the Assessment Workbook) have also been developed for each of the above, and incorporated into the relevant documents.

2. Addition and clarification of Glossary definitions

Definitions of new acronyms and capitalised terms in the above Mining Supplement standards have been added to the Glossary.

The definition of a Mining Facility has been added as a supporting definition for Facility:

A Facility that extracts Diamonds or Gold, or minerals containing saleable quantities of Diamonds or Gold, from the earth.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- Facilities in the exploration to pre-commissioned stages of the mine lifecycle are not visited as part of the Verification Assessment. Business practices in these stages of the mine lifecycle can be evidenced, where necessary and appropriate, by desktop review of policies, systems, procedures and processes.
- A Mining Facility is excluded from RJC Certification if riverine tailings disposal is used at that Facility. However all other COP provisions apply at that Facility and it can be included in the Verification Scope.
- A Mining Facility is not included in the Certification Scope if there is no saleable Diamonds or Gold, for example where Gold is a trace element in mineral concentrate, process by-products, or wastes.
- A Mining Facility producing multiple commodities or products, including Diamonds and/or Gold, can be excluded from the Certification Scope if there is a parallel certification system applicable to other commodities produced by the Mining Facility that is evaluated by the RJC to be technically equivalent to the RJC system.

Changes and clarifications to existing definitions include:

- Child Labour – the correct ILO Convention has been referenced (and summarised).
- Contractor – amended ‘contract for service’ to ‘contract for services’, to better differentiate from Employee definition.
- Human Rights: Added clarification of which human rights are referred to under the RJC System.
- Member: Added new requirements for Membership (see red text):

Any business that:

- i. is actively involved for commercial reasons in the Diamond and/or Gold Jewellery supply chain; and
- ii. is exempt from the role of consultant, advisor or any other similar entity; and
- iii. commits to the prevailing RJC Principles and Code of Practices on business ethics, social, human rights, environmental performance and management systems; and
- iv. commits to a Verification Assessment by an Auditor under the RJC System; and
- v. undertakes the payment of the annual RJC commercial membership fee;

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is eligible to become a RJC Commercial Member.

3. Extension of deadline for certification for Members with Mining Facilities to 3 years

Earlier this year, the Board agreed to grant an extension from December 2010 to 2011 as the deadline for certification, in light of the current global financial situation and its impacts on many businesses in the jewellery supply chain. This extension applied to non-mining Members. With the completion of the Mining Supplement in December 2009, a 3 year timeframe to achieve certification has been similarly granted to Members with Mining Facilities.

4. Deletion of detail on complaints process from Certification Handbook, pending publication of separate documentation on RJC complaints mechanism

Separate documentation on the RJC Complaints Mechanism is currently being developed in consultation with the RJC Legal Committee and independent academic advice. To avoid duplication with this future documentation, the Certification Handbook section on the complaints process has been considerably shortened.

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