



Standards Committee Meeting

12th July 2023

Summary notes

Standards Committee Participants: Ainsley Butler, Purvi Shah, Didier Backaert, Sabrina Karib, Joelle Ponnelle, Marie-Charlotte, Jennifer Hillard, Salah Hussein, Sara Yood, Maggie Gabos

Apologies: Coline Lemaitre, Eleonora Rizzuto, Charlene Nemson, Noora Jamsheer, Tehmasp Printer, Ilan Keplan, Trisevgeni Stavropoulos, Laurant Massi, Pippa Howard

RJC Management Team: Melanie Grant (Executive Director), Suzanne Brooks (Senior Standards Manager), Caroline Watson (Assistant Standards Manager), Charlotte Stanbridge (Assistant Standards & Training Manager), Andreea Cojanu-Davidoiu (General Manager, Standards, Assurance & Certification)

Materials circulated in advance of call:

- Meeting slides
- Standards Committee Minutes for June 7

1. Introduction, Committee minutes and actions

An introduction was conducted by Ainsley Butler, who reminded the Standards Committee (SCO) about the RJC's conflict of interest policy, anti-trust statement, and gave an overview of the agenda for today's call. Participation was noted by the RJC Senior Standards Manager. Previous meeting minutes were approved by Jennifer Hillard and Joelle Ponnelle.

The 3 new Committee members have been approved by board and an update of the current composition of the Committee was given. A Guest of Committee concept proposal is soon to be put forward to ExCo. Outreach to engage further Committee members is ongoing. In response to query, it was noted that there have been delays in getting approval for Guest of the Committee, but it is hoped to get this approved soon. Feedback was noted on the potential missed opportunity to include guests in the drop-in sessions.

2. Executive update

RJC team welcomed Melanie Grant, RJC Executive Director, who will be joining Committee meetings moving forwards. Melanie gave a brief introduction and welcome. An interactive discussion was held with the Committee members on the new ISO standard ISO/TC/174 Precious Metals and Jewellery & Recycled Gold. RJC is looking into the best avenues to join the group as soon as possible and options were discussed with the Committee. Updates on the discussions held between ISO and the RJC will be communicated at the next meeting.



3. Standards programme updates

An update was given regarding actions that came out of the last meeting in June. Since the last meeting RJC hosted several 1-hour drop-in sessions to capture Standards Committee input into the draft COP and CoC standards; EU reapplication work completed; continuing discussions on scope expansion; ongoing stakeholder engagement; ongoing technical support to members.

Training

So far this year, RJC has hosted 8 member webinars on the COP, COP 6 & 7 and the Self-assessment with 521 total registrants. Further webinars planned for 2023. Application portal walkthrough video developed. An employee training programme developed on the COP & CoC. First bi-annual RJC approved auditor workshop held in March on COP 3 and COP 14; next one planned for June 28th COP 6 and 7. Review of the RJC approved auditor training content under way to better support auditors through their RJC journey. A Committee member asked that webinars should be available in other languages. It was noted that due to resourcing this is challenging, but RJC will investigate key languages and assess potential resource.

EU recognition

RJC submitted the reapplication in July, and this has been acknowledged by the EU commission. Refiner summary reports can be found on the RJC website under the member profile pages. The Standards Committee will be informed further on response from the Commission.

Drop-in sessions

RJC gave a recap of the drop-in sessions, including areas needing further discussion. An overview was given of identified COP and CoC provisions requiring extra focus for review of the standard and guidance. Further discussions pending for remaining CoC provisions and topics. The next steps are to capture all feedback and share with the Committee. A benchmarking exercise was discussed to ensure RJC standards are developed against required, existing and emerging standards and frameworks on key strategic areas. The RJC should be pioneers. Committee members gave positive feedback on the drop-ins and this approach for collecting Committee feedback.

4. Standards workplans

A high-level COP workplan was presented showing key Committee involvement areas and format for their involvement. The launch of the standard aimed for 2024 and will be at the same time as the LGMS. The RJC team are developing key timelines with clear granular detail to incorporate more realistic timelines. It was confirmed that written feedback on the COP is welcome until the end of August. The Committee were asked for their thoughts on the length of the consultation. The same overview of workplans was given for the CoC review and LGMS standards development. The RJC team welcomed feedback from the Committee on the level of engagement with them. A Committee member noted the potential risk of changing the Committee halfway through a project. RJC agreed to review the Committee's terms of membership beyond December 2023 as a result of the delays to the project timelines and the impacts on the Committee's involvement in their delivery.



RESPONSIBLE
JEWELLERY
COUNCIL

LEAD WITH PURPOSE . INSPIRE WITH TRUST
CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT

5. COP Scope expansion

RJC to prepare a briefing document on the history/status of the COP scope expansion. No decision yet made on expansion to all coloured gemstones, pearls and corals based on the feedback received in the consultations. The Standards Committee to make recommendation on expansion based on the brief provided and information available. Board approval not required at this point as no recommendation has yet made by Committee on expansion. RJC suggested potential drop-in session to review information if required. Following committee member query, RJC have noted the communications on scope expansion made in 2022 and will look to address any discrepancies. Decision hoped to be made by end of August, with further discussion planned in more detail at the 16 August meeting.

6. AOB, next steps, 2023/2024 meeting dates

An overview of the upcoming drop-in sessions to be hosted was given, as well as the upcoming Committee meeting dates. Proposed dates for the in-person RJC hosted workshop to be communicated at the August meeting.

Purvi Shah thanked the Committee and closed the meeting.