



Standards Committee Meeting

22nd February 2023

Summary notes

Standards Committee Participants: Purvi Shah, Ainsley Butler, Coline Lemaitre, Jennifer Hillard, Marie Marie-Charlotte Druesne Chancogne , Noora Jamsheer, Sabrina Karib, Sara Yood, Joelle Ponelle. Laurant Massi, Salah Hussein.

Apologies: Didier Backaert, Trisevgeni Stavropoulos.

RJC Management Team: Melanie Grant (Executive Director), (Suzanne Brooks (Senior Standards Manager), Caroline Watson (Assistant Standards Manager), John Hall (Strategic Advisor).

Materials circulated in advance of call: Draft COP (track changed version and clean version), Previous meeting minutes, Standards Committee meeting slides, Committee COP review allocation document.

1. Introduction

An introduction was conducted by Ainsley Butler, the Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the agenda for today's call and conducted a roll call. The Committee were reminded about the RJC's conflict of interest policy and anti-trust statement. Previous meeting minutes were approved by Joelle Ponelle and Purvi Shah.

RJC Executive Director Melanie Grant gave a brief hello and introduction to herself.

Committee member asked if the draft COP was to be reviewed over December and January. It was noted that there was a delay in these being released as they were undergoing a final review. These were circulated before the meeting. It was noted the RJC Standards Team are looking to receive an additional resource to join the team and support with the current workload. The Committee offered to circulate this within their networks.

2. General updates

RJC Senior Standards Manager welcomed Sabrina Karib to the Committee as the new representative for Argor-Heraeus. Sabrina gave a brief introduction to her position as Director of Sustainability at Argor-Heraeus, her background in the precious metals supply chain.

EU update

Standards Manager gave an overview of the EU alignment process status. Work is ongoing to address alignment gaps, and re-application will likely be pushed back due to increased work associated with this as well as the potential impact of a new updated COP.



ASM workplan

ASM project remains high in list of work, however for now the team are focusing the workload on Standards development. Until new a resource is on board, we will pause further outreach.

Lab grown

Lab grown provisions have been drafted. Conversations with ExCo are ongoing. Senior manager referred Committee to the communication sent out by the Co-chairs. Updates on the conversation with ExCo will be provided once they have concluded.

COP update

Draft COP standard shared with Committee prior to the meeting. Guidance is being drafted and will be shared when necessary. RJC team invited Committee to suggest what areas of the COP they would like to review. Some Committee members put forward suggestions and the others were encouraged to do so in the next couple of weeks. It was asked what the expectations are of a Committee member as part of the review and standards development – it was agreed a process would be shared for clarification. It was also suggested to highlight key provisions of the guidance where extra guidance support may be needed. It was asked what happens if not enough Committee members volunteer to review the standard. It was clarified that this will be addressed if necessary and gaps will be filled where relevant. The Senior Standards Manager also noted that timelines are being revised to give a realistic deadline.

A Committee member noted that the last in person workshop required 2 full days to review the COP and suggested to host the in person around a board meeting or AGM. The importance of translations was also raised in order to ensure RJC standards are able to be implemented by RJC members globally once the new updated standards are released. It was confirmed that a legal team would also review the standard as part of the process, and translation of documents will also be taken into consideration. When asked if round 1 consultation comments were included as well as round 2 into the draft this was confirmed. The draft standard circulated takes into consideration all comments. The need to manage stakeholder expectations was noted regarding project timeframes and the work already conducted on topics like appraisal and labs.

CoC update

BJOP roundtable was held and round 1 CoC is closed. Next steps are to review consultation comments and update the draft. Round 2 consultation expected Q1/2 (60 days). An updated document will be shared once ready. It was clarified that the consultant is not responsible for decisions making but decisions are to be made by the standards team and the Committee. Consultants scopes are to support in the technical drafting of documentation. The comment form and the draft standard will be shared for Standard Committee review and feedback. It was noted that clarification will be provided on the expectations and requirements for the review process, including roles of the consultants, team, and Committee. High level Committee roles are also in the



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governance handbook. RJC team to look into decision making on coloured gemstones, pearls and corals in order to inform the standard and guidance development.

Training

An overview of the training workplan for 2023 was given, (including webinars, toolkits, and resources) as well as a summary of upcoming training planned. There will be a 3-year strategy coming soon and an update will be provided in due course.

AOB

RJC team will revisit timelines for meetings this year (both face to face and in person). A request made from a Committee member to share RJC teams detailed project plan and high-level timeframe on projects.

Purvi Shah thanked the Committee and closed the meeting.