

Standards Committee Meeting Minutes 22nd May 2024

Standards Committee Participants: (in room): Purvi Shah, Joëlle Ponnelle, Robin Kolvenbach, Eduard Stefanescu, (virtual): Ainsley Butler, Silvia Bezzone, Maggie Gabos, Jennifer Hillard, Noora Jamsheer, Charlene Nemson, Marie-Charlotte Druessne Chancogne, Sara Yood, Ebony Yeboa-Amankwah.

RJC Management Team: Melanie Grant (Executive Director), Suzanne Brooks (Senior Standards Manger), Caroline Watson (Standards Manager), Effie Marinos (Special Advisor Technical Standards), Daniel Finn (Standards Programme Coordinator), John Hall (Specialist advisor), Yagmur Masmaz (Senior Certification Manager), Rachael Morey (Assurance Manager) and Marie Ebelebe (Assurance Assistant Manager).

Apologies: Marcin Piersiak, Laurent Massi, Trisevgeni Stavropoulos, Salah Hussain, Didier Backaert, Phillippe Telouk.

Date: 22nd May 2024

Time: 14:00-15:00pm (BST)

Location: Hybrid via Teams link/OECD Forum - meeting room FR Bilat 4

Materials circulated in advance of call:

1. Presentation slide deck.
2. Meeting minutes from the 17th of April 2024 – for approval in the meeting.
3. WeTransfer link draft COP guidance and glossary of terms.

1. Opening:

The meeting commenced with introductions and a welcome from the Co-Chair and Senior Standards Manager. The April meeting minutes were approved by Joelle Ponnelle and Robin Kolvenbach. The Senior Standards Manager noted an update to a member's attendance which would be made.

2. Executive Update:

The Executive Director (ED) provided an update on recent travel and events attended. There was discussion on the RJC Chairman in his new role, and an update was given. The Committee asked if the Chairman would be attending upcoming Standards Committee meetings, and it was agreed that he may do so at a suitable opportunity, for example, at one of the upcoming in-person workshops. A concern about the non-industry representation to the board was also raised and noted to be addressed with the Chairman.

The ED discussed the work that was underway to streamline the membership application process to manage the increasing number of applications and this was a clear focus at the moment. A committee member asked for the rationale behind the decision to develop a separate Laboratory-Grown Material Standard (LGMS) to the Code of Practices (COP), and it was noted that this would be addressed in the next Committee meeting following engagement with the Executive Committee (ExCo). The ED discussed plans to implement a strategic committee where larger strategic issues affecting the RJC in the long term would be tabled. Further updates again, expected in the June Standards Committee meeting.

3. Standards Committee Updates:

The Senior Standards Manager (SSM) discussed the terms ending for several standards committee members. The departure of Pippa Howard from the Standards Committee was noted (as of 1 March), and Silvia Bezzone from Bulgari was welcomed to the committee and gave a short self-introduction. The RJC continues to actively seek recommendations for new members. There was discussion on the Committee continuity planning emphasizing the importance of maintaining expertise and support during the review of the RJC Standards. The ED highlighted concerns about losing a significant number of

committee members at a crucial time in the workplan. Members were encouraged to recommend new members and co-chairs. The continuity planning approach was outlined, with an agreed recommendation for committee members to remain in role until the completion of the three standards. The ED and SSM thanked the Committee for their continued and valued contributions.

4. Standards Programme Updates:

COP: Round 3 public consultation is ongoing, with further side discussions to take place on any key topic areas. Feedback from roundtables held the week of 13th May was positive. Guidance was shared with the committee for feedback on nominated sections. Next steps were outlined for the Standard development.

CoC: Consultation feedback is being consolidated, and next steps will be identified soon. High-level feedback was discussed on the recycled definition. The RJC will align with the ISEAL process and incorporate consultation feedback in developing the CoC standard. A summary of the approval process for a recycled materials definition was provided.

LGMS: Key topic areas were given to the Lab Grown Taskforce for input into the draft standard. The timeline for the consultation on the standard was provided and the standard would be circulated to the Committee prior to the round one public commenting period.

5. AOB:

An update on the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation Recognition was given.

Dates were proposed for the two in-person meetings (CoC and COP) this year. Due to varying committee availability a doodle poll would be circulated.

The meeting was adjourned with closing comments from Committee Co-Chair Purvi Shah.