



**Standards Committee Meeting**  
**15 April 2021**  
**Summary notes**

**Standards Committee participants:** Purvi Shah (co-chair), Natalia Zhulina, Phaedon Stamatopoulos, Didier Backaert, Emmanuel Piat, Joelle Ponelle, Kesha Frank, Anouchka Didier-Mansour, Stephane Fischler, Cecilia Gardner, Diana Culillas, Sara Yood, Emily Sims, Cedric Simonet

**Apologies:** Ainsley Butler (Co-Chair), Jennifer Hillard, Jean-Claude Michelou, Marianna Smirnova

**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

An introduction conducted by Purvi Shah. Purvi 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 Cecilia Gardner and Joelle Ponnelle.

## 2. 2021 workplan

For 2021 RJC has engaged in an ambitious workplan to update the COP and CoC, this includes harmonisations with a number of mining initiatives for the COP, expansion of material scope to include all other coloured gemstones, as well as a number of amendments specifically for the CoC, including risk based assessments for outsourced subcontractors, return of sold CoC material, guidance on applicability for watch components and the definition of recycled materials. There will be a number of toolkits developed in 2021 including one for SMEs, as well as toolkits covering gender and environmental issues. RJC will also be engaging in a review of the OECD DDG requirements for diamonds and coloured gemstones as per the agreed phased approach for these commodities.

## 3. Mining cross recognition and harmonisation

The Standards Manager provided an update to the committee on the project commissioned to have an external consultant to conduct the first draft of COP provisions against the IRMA standard. The management team expect this to be finalised at the end of April 2021. The draft of the mining provisions will be part of the public consultation released later in 2021. The Standards Manager also provided an update on the progress made regarding the cross recognition against ICMM and MAC-TSM initiatives which require review and approval from the Assurance Committee and finally on RJC's continuing engagement with the ISEAL innovation grant funded M3 project.

## 4. Taskforces

Updates on the Coloured Gemstones and gemmological laboratories task force were provided by the RJC Standards Manager. The coloured gemstone task force who's role will be to review the expansion of material scope for the RJC has begun. The RJC Management team has created and shared a terms of reference and workplan, participants invited to participate and preliminary dates for the first consultation set. The gemmological laboratories task force who's role is to review the provisions applicable to laboratories, as per the conclusion to the feasibility report submitted to the RJC board at the end of 2020 have received a terms of reference and

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workplan and preliminary dates for the first consultation set. The Committee will be updated about the progress of both taskforces at the next committee meeting.

## 5. Training

With the departure of RJC Training Manager, Maria Mursell, it has been decided that member training, from a technical perspective, will be rolled into the responsibilities of the Standards department to manage moving forward and will sit under the responsibilities of the Standards Manager. A work plan of training for the year has been established and was shared with the committee as well as an update on the status of several member toolkits was provided by the Standards Manager. All subsequent standards committee meetings will include an update on member training.

## 6. AOB

Finally, the committee were updated on the one remaining opening within the non-industry role of the standards committee and that the RJC management team are working to close this. The RJC EU Recognised scheme application has been set back due to COVID-19. Two planned shadow audits were cancelled due to representatives of Kumi not being able to attend. RJC contacted the EU Commission to consider the application and use of remote shadow auditing, however this suggestion was dismissed. Work on translations to the COP guidance and related documents into Spanish and Thai, with the Thai translation supported by our colleagues at GIT.

RJC has been consulting with regards to the amendment of the definition to recycled materials within the CoC standard. Two consultations have been held and consensus has not been achieved on several issues. Further consultations will be arranged, and the SC will be informed on the recommendations of this consultation. The committee were provided with a summary of consultation feedback so far. RJC management team plans to engage with stakeholder groups individually, collate issues and feedback hoping this provides further progress within this consultation.