



Standards Committee Meeting

15 February 2022

Summary Notes

Standards Committee participants: Ainsley Butler (co-chain), Purvi Shah (co-chair), Ilan Kaplan, Didier Backaert, Anouchka Didier-Mansour, Jennifer Peyser, Laurent Massi, Marcin Piersiak, Natalia Zhulina, Phaedon Stamatopoulos, Joelle Ponnelle, Noora Jamsheer, Cecilia Gardner, Jennifer Hillard, Diana Culillas

Apologies: Sara Yood, Emmanuel Piat, Marie-Charlotte Druesne Chancogne, Trisha, Francesca Manta, Marianna Smirnova, Emily Sims, Trisevgeni Stavropoulos

RJC Management Team: Peter Dawkins (Senior Standards Manager), Nawal Ait-Hocine (RJC consultant), Caroline Watson (Sustainability Projects Coordinator), Charlotte Stanbridge (Standards and Training Coordinator), Emilie Van Landeghem (Standards Coordinator)

Materials circulated in advance of call: Presentation slides, minutes from previous two meetings

1. Anti-trust statement

An introduction conducted by Ainsley Butler and roll call by the Senior Standards Manager. Ainsley reminded the committee about the RJC's conflict of interest policy and anti-trust statement. November's meeting minutes were approved by Joelle Ponnelle and Cecilia Gardner and Decembers approved by Cecilia Gardner and Noora Jamsheer.

2. Code of Practices

Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the COP update timelines, all submitted comments noted and answered by RJC standards team, to be shared in round two of consultation. From March to April 2022 round two of the consultation to begin, from April to May RJC will review the comments to be shared with the Standards Committee and input to be given to the final update. The Senior Standards manager asked that committee members willing to participate in particular sector to please write to register interests.

Round one topics raised:

- Request for increased harmonisation and extra guidance on how harmonisations work.
- Support of the expansion to coloured gemstones but emphasis on a phased approach, flexibility needed, and cost considerations

- A review of the due diligence requirements through gender lens has been requested by RJC Executive Director, previously a gender review was conducted but this is specifically looking at OECD and HRDD.
- The provision requirements won't change, this is more additional support within the guidance documents.
- Expansion to pearls: provide clear disclosure requirements about treatment of pearls and define what constitutes a responsibly sourced pearl
- Expansion to corals raises concerns, such as lack of information on impacts of corals and wider environmental impact of their use / sourcing.
- Online trading platforms should not be exempt from due diligence requirements.
- Provide guidance on how metal aggregators and collectors can engage with their suppliers and get information to fulfil due diligence requirements

It was confirmed that the COP update is under legal review and once approved it will be shared ahead of release of general consultation, then released for public consultation.

3. Laboratory-Grown Standard

Senior Standards manager gave an overview of the LGMS timeline, round one of public consultation has been completed the release of the standards has been pushed back due to time constraints and the ongoing COP 2019 update. RJC will share the summary from round one including all comments raised, round two will include an internally drafted standards with support of an external expert. Round two will focus on looking at draft standard and mirroring the COP in its fundamentals, with the exception that it is explicit to natural, as per ISEAL process this will all be publicly shared but as standard committee members you will preview the standards ahead of this consultation.

The Senior Standards Manager confirmed that round two of public consultation will include a draft standard. To ensure alignment between the COP and LGMS depending on the severity of the difference, we can update as and when we need to. If the update is significant, we are due to do conduct a full review of the COP in 2023. The first round of consultation feedback consisted of differences in opinion regarding treatment of LGM and both positive and constructive feedback, the release of the standards has been pushed back to the end of Q4 2022.

4. Chain of Custody

Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the CoC review timeline, with round 1 launching April/May 2022. It was mentioned that within the Terms of Reference for the CoC review the comments were more in alignment with the COP update, it was confirmed that this is due to the CoC being a voluntary standard for material separation and that members must be COP certified in order to achieve CoC certification.

RJC are conducting a pilot study to determine if diamonds and coloured gemstones can be included within the scope of the CoC standard, the greatest amendment in the update is to the CoC guidance document. The pilot group will involve volunteering RJC members completing a mock audit.

It was clarified that the inclusion of diamonds and coloured gemstones into the CoC standard will be part of the consultation process and will help to determine if it is a

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feasible step forward. The learnings from pilot will dictate guidance and next update of CoC and how smaller stones and melee can this be tracked and subject to an audit process

The RJC consultant explained that there has been a lot of demand from members to include diamonds and gems into the CoC standard, referencing feedback from members, and noting that the diamond supply chain is less complex than coloured gemstones. There have also been more tools and systems developed to track and trace diamonds in supply chains. The Senior Standards manager noted he would be in contact with the co-chair to discuss this matter further.

5. Training Workplan

Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the training workplan for Q1 & Q2 of 2022, with plans for webinars on COP 6 & 7, engaging with ASM, Environmental Sustainability, anti-bribery & corruption, the launch of a Gender Toolkit and the update to the Human Rights Due Diligence Toolkit.

6. 2022 Workplan

The Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of key dates and projects in the standards workplan for Q1 & Q2 of 2022.

7. AOB

Senior Standards Manager informed the standards committee that the governance handbook has a term limit for committee members and therefore term limits are around May and AGM. The standards team will be reaching out to members regarding their term dates and will be requesting a board extension until after COP round 2 consultation is complete.

It was clarified that extension some member terms end in May, but as the COP update ends in June, we will end the term in June upon board approval. It was confirmed industry members that start in a middle of term you represent the full term, email to be sent shortly on what exactly your position is and what your term dates are.