



## Standards Committee Meeting

22 June 2021

### Summary notes

**Standards Committee participants:** Purvi Shah (co-Chair), Natalia Zhulina, Phaedon Stamatopoulos, Joelle Ponnelle, Keshia Frank, Noora Jamsheer, Ilan Keplan, Marcin Piersiak, Jennifer Peyser, Ainsley Butler (Co-chair), Cecilia Gardner, Jennifer Hillard, Francesca Manta, Marianna Smirnova, Sara Yood, Emily Sims

**Apologies:** Coline Lemaitre, Diana Culillas, Eleonora Rizzuto

**RJC Management Team:** Peter Dawkins (Standards Manager), Nawal Ait-Hocine (RJC consultant), Charlotte Stanbridge (Standards & Training Coordinator)

**Materials circulated in advance of call:** Presentation slides, minutes from previous meeting.

#### 1. Introduction

An introduction conducted by Ainsley Butler. Ainsley 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 Joelle Ponnelle and Cecilia Gardner. Members were made aware of changes in seats and vacancies, Senior Standards Manager called on new members to introduce themselves.

#### 2. 2021 Workplan Update

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 are a number of toolkits developed in 2021 including a completed toolkit 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. Review of Mining provisions

The RJC is looking to amend mining specific provisions, IRMA MAC and ICMM, and cross recognition against these has now been finalised. Updates will be incorporated into RJC assurance manual and members, and auditors will be made aware of the changes.

We are ongoing in our collaboration and have integrated audit protocol which is under development for mining members, if mining members wanted to have RJC, MAC or mining audit they could have them at the same time. We are looking to get a first draft created for the mining provision. We are working with the SBG to incorporate medium scale mines to join RJC, they are also support with translating of documents and the COP 2019 Standards has been translated into Spanish. There is no plan to promote RJC to promote large scale mines, as there are activities for promotion that are ongoing.

#### 4. Taskforces

Updates on the Coloured Gemstones and gemmological laboratories task force were provided by the RJC Standards Manager. Work has begun earlier in the year to look at expansion of the coloured gemstone scope, this is currently limited to rubies, emeralds, and sapphires. The next call scheduled for the end of June, to review the best approach for this and incorporating particular material risks into the COP. The standards that existed for gemmological laboratories were the bare minimum; it was felt that additional information and standards were necessary to assist auditors when auditing laboratories. There are COP amendments primarily to section 30 to incorporate the changes required for gemmological laboratories, a draft will be shared by the end of the week with the task force and feedback will be shared with the Standards Committee as soon as possible.

#### 5. Training

With technical member training now sitting under the Standards department, Charlotte Stanbridge has joined as a new team member as the Standards & Training Coordinator and will conduct RJC member training and provide member support. Events planned for 2021 include webinars, member engagement, mining sector, Spanish language, and OECD Due Diligence. Training in alternative languages is available on demand and we can conduct training in French, English and Spanish internally. The training workplan will be updated for the rest of the year including and an updated workplan will be shared in the September Standards Committee call.

The final revision of the SME toolkit has been concluded, and we are working with communications to record a conversation between the Standards Manager and Executive Director aimed at SME's. The toolkit is a broad CSR toolkit aimed at members and non-members who wish to engage in RBP. RJC is developing a Metals OECD Due Diligence toolkit, to be released as soon as possible and compliment Diamond and Coloured Gemstone toolkit. There will be an update on the Human Rights Due Diligence toolkit in the September Standards Committee call.

#### 6. AOB

A second shadow audit has been booked for the EU recognised scheme application; this audit process has been delayed due to COVID and the confirmation application process has been extended for 2021. The RJC would like to conclude this process and have it completed as soon as possible. Consultation for the new CoC recycled definition has begun, a consensus was not found as to what the new definition should be. There are opposing positions with regards to the amendment of the definition, whether to keep as is, narrow or expand the definition. There is a huge push to have more viable recycled material in the jewellery supply chain. We are moving forward with further consultations being conducted in the coming weeks.

There is concern that there is a trend of painting recycled materials as the most ethical and only responsible solution; the RJC needs to conduct an honest analysis and discussion with its members and stakeholders regarding "recycled" contribution to the SDGs vs other sourcing options. Previous consultations with regards to recycled materials were productive, hence moving forward with the consultation, the RJC are looking to have smaller consultation groups with down the line, reviewing the strengths and weaknesses around the amendment of the scope of recycled or possibly not. This is a consultation and is not at the detriment of anyone, the comments submitted a few weeks ago will be taking into consideration and the consultation process has not yet been completed.

There has been great support from BGI/BSA translating the COP 2019 standard, guidance, and self-assessment into Spanish; and work to translate the 2017 COC standards and guidance has begun. The translation of the COP 2019 standard into Russian has been completed and will be branded and released shortly. Further translations of the COP 2019 documents into Thai are being conducted by The Gemmological Institute of Thailand (GIT) and will be available by end of 2021.