



Standards Committee Meeting
16 November 2021
Summary Notes

Standards Committee participants: Ainsley Butler (co-chair), Purvi Shah (co-chair), Ilan Kaplan, Diana Culillas, Didier Backaert, Anouchka Didier-Mansour, Francesca Manta, Jennifer Peyser, Laurent Massi, Marcin Piersiak, Natalia Zhulina, Phaedon Stamatopoulos, Joelle Ponnelle, Sara Yood, Emily Sims,

Apologies: Emmanuel Piat, Noora Jamsheer, Cecilia Gardner, Jennifer Hillard, Marianna Smirnova

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 meeting, Dr Laurent Massi Biography & CV

1. Introduction

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. Previous meeting minutes were approved by Joelle Ponnelle and Sara Yood.

2. WJI 2030

Executive Director gave an overview of the Watch and Jewellery Initiative 2030, we are still in the process of developing the initiative and will be able to provide more details in January.

Driven by a common conviction that the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aspirations for a sustainable industry can only be achieved through collaborative initiatives, Cartier, delegated by Richemont, and Kering, in partnership with the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), have come together to broaden and strengthen their action, launching the Watch and Jewellery Initiative 2030.

The mission is to unite the global watch & jewellery brands committing to ambitious goals while collaborating on strategic projects that deliver impact all along the value chain. By agreeing on the same ambitions, the same targets and the same timetable, we can have a much greater impact to transform the industry and make it more sustainable. The focus areas of the initiative are based on 3 key pillars:

- Building climate resilience
- Preserving resources for nature and communities
- Fostering inclusiveness across our value-chains

For each of the three set of goals (building climate resilience, preserving resources for nature and communities, fostering inclusiveness across our value chains), we set up a measurable objective for 2030. To accelerate action, we started defining a path for

reaching this objective, including minimum requirements to embrace within 2022, and key actions to tackle together between 2022 and 2030.

The Executive Director will provide a further update on the Watch and Jewellery Initiative in March.

3. COP Consultation Update

Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the COP consultation timeline and an update on where we currently are in the process, the first consultation has been held virtually for the USA and the next is the Thailand consultation being held virtually on 17th November. The Senior Standards Manager reminded the committee members that they are all welcome to participate. There has been an amendment to the French consultation, and this will now be held virtually with details on the date and time to be confirmed.

4. Laboratory-Grown Standard Consultation Update

Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the Laboratory-grown consultation process so far; the North American consultation has been held and we received a lot of constructive comments and recommendations so far.

The stakeholders for the consultation have included laboratory grown independent experts. The RJC is trying to be as communicative as possible about the ongoing consultations and everyone is invited to participate via the RJC website.

The standards will be released in English and then once finalised they will be translated as per the current languages, Spanish, Italian and French.

It was questioned as to why there is a separate laboratory-grown standard being developed from the COP, as the RJC currently does not have this for any other stone. The Senior Standards Manager clarified that this decision was made at Board level and that further discussions to the structure are ongoing, adding that any resulting standard must ensure that the RJC are the leading standard for fine jewellery and watch products.

5. CoC Diamond Pilot

The Senior Standards Manager gave an update on the CoC diamond pilot, the wording of this standard requires little amendment but the guidance has taken longer than anticipated and auditor verification requirements. This pilot will be combined into the 2022 full review of the Chain of Custody standard as per ISEAL requirements.

RJC is focusing on how the standard will require members to handle materials internally, there will be stringent high levels of verification and some larger brands want evidence of origin and how they have been handled. RJC will utilise any system of warranties work that exists.

6. Training Update

Senior Standards manager gave an overview of the training workplan and toolkit work, the human rights due diligence toolkit is being revised and will be amended to a PDF document as opposed to excel and will include templates, checklists and supporting documents to comply with COP 6.

The standards team is working with BSR to develop a gender toolkit, this toolkit is not specific to one provision and will be released early next year (2022).

Reporting templates are now live, these cover all of the reporting requirements for the COP (excluding mining provisions). There are individual templates for COP 3, 6, 7 and 27 as well as a combined COP 6 & 7 template that members can use flexibly.

Currently unsure if the development of materials for the watch and jewellery initiative will fall under the standards team scope, Senior Standards Manager to follow up with an answer.

7. 2022 Workplan

The Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the 2022 workplan, the Standards team plan to continue work on the COP and Laboratory-Grown Standard consultations, undertake a review of the Human Rights Due Diligence toolkit, develop a Gender Equality Toolkit in addition to beginning work on the update of the Chain of Custody in line with ISEAL requirements.

8. AOB

It was voiced that a full recognition of ICMM and MAC TSM are an opportunity to have more CoC gold on the market, as there are concerns that no one will agree to 'fill the gap' between these standards and the RJC's, the Senior Standards Manager noted that ICMM and MAC and site level standards, compared to RJC COP which is mandatory for the whole company, additionally ICMM and MAC for CoC recognition is applicable to permit materials that have not originated from a COP certified mine, therefore their inclusion does permit more material to enter into CoC supply chains.

The definition of eligible recycled materials within the CoC standard will remain unamended, but additional guidance will be added regarding the eligibility of investment bars that have information on their origin and segregation can be confirmed. A new category for eligible sources of bullion and investment products will be included in the review of the CoC in 2022.