



## Standards Committee Meeting

18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### Summary notes

**Standards Committee Participants:** Dider Backaert, Joelle Ponelle, Sara Yood, Marie-Charlotte Druesne Chancogne, Jennifer Hillard, Laurant Massi

**Apologies:** Ainsley Butler (Co-chair), Ilan Keplan, Salah Hussein, Laurent Massi, Noora Jamsheer, Pippa Howard, Coline Lemaitre, Tehmasp Printer, Trisevgeni Stavropoulos

**RJC Management Team:** Suzanne Brooks (Senior Standards Manager), Andreea Cojanu-Davidoiu (General Manager – Standards, Assurance & Certification), Caroline Watson (Assistant Standards Manager), Charlotte Stanbridge (Assistant Standards & Training Manager), John Hall (Interim Executive Director)

**Materials circulated in advance of call:** Presentation slides, minutes February meeting, minutes from September meeting, ASM workplan draft

#### 1. Introduction

An introduction was conducted by Purvi Shah, the Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the agenda for today's call and conducted a roll call. Purvi reminded the committee about the RJC's conflict of interest policy and anti-trust statement.

#### 2. RJC Board – October Meeting Update

Purvi Shah gave an update on October's board meeting, noting that the board understood there may be a proposal for review of the LGM standard and the impact of the LGMS on the COP, the importance of the EU recognition work and standards harmonisation.

#### 3. EU Commission Update

The General Manager for Standards, Assurance and Certification gave an update on the RJC's EU Recognition application, noting that we received a response from the EU commission in August, a follow up call with them on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September and that no other scheme is currently recognised.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of October we received a letter with the outcome detailing that we do not meet the criteria for full recognition, with two non-aligned criteria. B.60 which has already been addressed, and C.10 (the requirement for refiners and RJC to publish summary audit reports) which requires further work to address, the requirement for this is detailed within the standard and guidance document but is not implemented.

RJC have three months to implement corrective actions, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2023 we are free to reapply, during which Kumi will review only the areas of non-compliance. It was clarified that the score relies on having 100% compliance for section A and 80% for sections B & C in addition to having no not aligned criteria. The commission could not commit to a time-frame shorter than 9 months, there is no further requirements for shadow audits, but we will need to reach out to the four refiners audited to provide them with a summary audit and ask for permission to publish on website. RJC will also take this opportunity to address the 17 partially aligned criteria ahead of the reapplication.

#### 4. Code of Practices

The Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the progress on the Code of Practices update noting that for round two only the North American roundtable is to be hosted, on 25<sup>th</sup> October. The scope expansion will include all coloured gemstones, and we will shortly be seeking specialist support for this. Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the updated timeline for the COP update, noting that if a potential 30-day consultation took place to align with LGMS, work would end in Dec 2023. As per ISEAL process there is potential to create an urgent substantive revision to the standard, meaning there is potential to release the updated COP in March 2023 and update in line with the LGMS at a later date.



It was confirmed that as per ISEAL process there will be a 12-month transition period where members can choose whether to be audited against the old or updated standard. It was confirmed that the last draft of the COP will be shared shortly and requested that we highlight the key areas of change to the standard in the next committee call and a link to the current draft was provided.

#### **5. Lab Grown Material Standard**

The standards team have been working with Clark to focus on comparative analysis, looking at applicable COP provisions that might be applicable to the LGMS, as well as areas where there is a need for new provisions and where current provisions could be amended. The next steps are to present the options on structure and implementation to the Executive Committee in November, then to the Board. The Senior Standards manager gave an overview of the LGMS timeline and noted that completion of work is expected by July 2023. The committee voiced that they would like to review the draft LGMS standards ahead of round two of consultation. It was requested to create a summary page of the COP, CoC & LGMS work to summarise the workload ahead.

#### **6. Chain of Custody**

The Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the 2017 Chain of Custody and timeline of the work, noting that the consultation opened today ending in December, the roundtables are scheduled with communications and invites to be sent out. It was asked why bullion, investment and mining by-product where being included in the updated CoC standard, the standards team are to follow up with committee members on this point via email and/or next call. It was suggested that the standards team look into the previous recycled consultation meeting minutes ahead of the next call.

#### **7. Standards Committee Re-engagement**

The Senior Standards Manager gave an overview of the current standards committee composition noting that term extensions ending in December were granted on the basis that work would be set to end by December 2022. The standards team will reach out to members with terms and extension ending December 2022 individually to discuss remaining on the committee, those who wish to stay will be subject to board approval. We are working to fill the remaining vacancies on the committee, with ongoing conversations with one of our permanent seats. It was highlighted by a committee member that there are two potential committee applications, one non-industry and one industry, standards team will follow up with these potential members.

#### **8. ASM Workplan**

The Assistant Standards Manager gave an overview of the ASM workplan and invited comments from committee members. This workplan was informed by feedback from management, various ASM stakeholders (incl. ex comm members), COP consultation comments and EU recognition scheme.

The deliverables are planned to be a working group, looking at education, guidance and toolkits for the industry on responsible sourcing from ASM, practical toolkits and guidance for ASM to help with implementing responsible business practices in line with RJC standards.

It was questioned whether the timeframes for this work are achievable and if this work is a priority for the standards team, given the current workload. The standards team are currently collating feedback on the composition of the workplan and will review the timelines of this work and add to the matrix of standards work that is to be created.

#### **9. Training**

The Assistant Standards & Training Manager gave an overview of the training workplan from October to December 2022 with working with trade associations, on topics covering the 2019 Code of Practices and the 2017 Chain of Custody.



## 10. AOB

The coloured gemstone taskforce project was paused earlier this year, and the question around reinstatement was raised. To inform this decision, the ToR and minutes from the last coloured gemstone taskforce meeting will be circulate ahead of the November meeting where the committee can provide comment and thoughts. The Senior Standards Manager requested approval of the previous meetings minutes, February's were approved by Joelle Ponelle & Purvi Shah and September's by Joelle Ponelle & Sara Yood.

An overview of Annual Community Membership Requirements was given, noting that the ISEAL member 2022 improvement plan submitted in Q2 2022 and may be shared by ISEAL with other ISEAL members only. ISEAL member system overview submitted in Q2 2022 & publicly available on ISEAL website under RJC section, in line with other ISEAL members, and that the following is due is 2022:

- 2022 Progress Report by 14th November 2022
- 2023 Improvement Plan by 14th November 2022
- ISEAL Annual review meeting (21st of November 2022)

It was raised that we currently have no large-scale gold miners as RJC members, the standards team will potentially invite our membership team to a standards committee call to discuss and give an overview of their department. It was clarified that there will be further member training on COP 14 within the new year, including webinars and an update to the COP 14 training page. The Senior Standards Manager closed the meeting.