



RJC Standards Development of the Laboratory Grown Material Standard – Terms of Reference

June 2024

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Version: 2.0

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Previous version: 2021

Introduction

In 2021, the RJC Board approved the creation of a new standard to incorporate laboratory grown materials. The development will include a minimum of two rounds of public consultations and input from the multi-stakeholder Standards Committee to ensure that the development sets a benchmark within the jewellery industry on best practice for responsible business practices for laboratory grown materials.

Proposed Scope of the updated Standard

The Laboratory Grown Material Standard (LGMS) will be mandatory for all RJC members who handle laboratory grown materials. This development will be linked to the update of the COP. The standard will cover the entire jewellery and watch supply chain from producer through to retail. The standard and the standard setting process will be publicly available to provide guidance to interested parties who are non-RJC members.

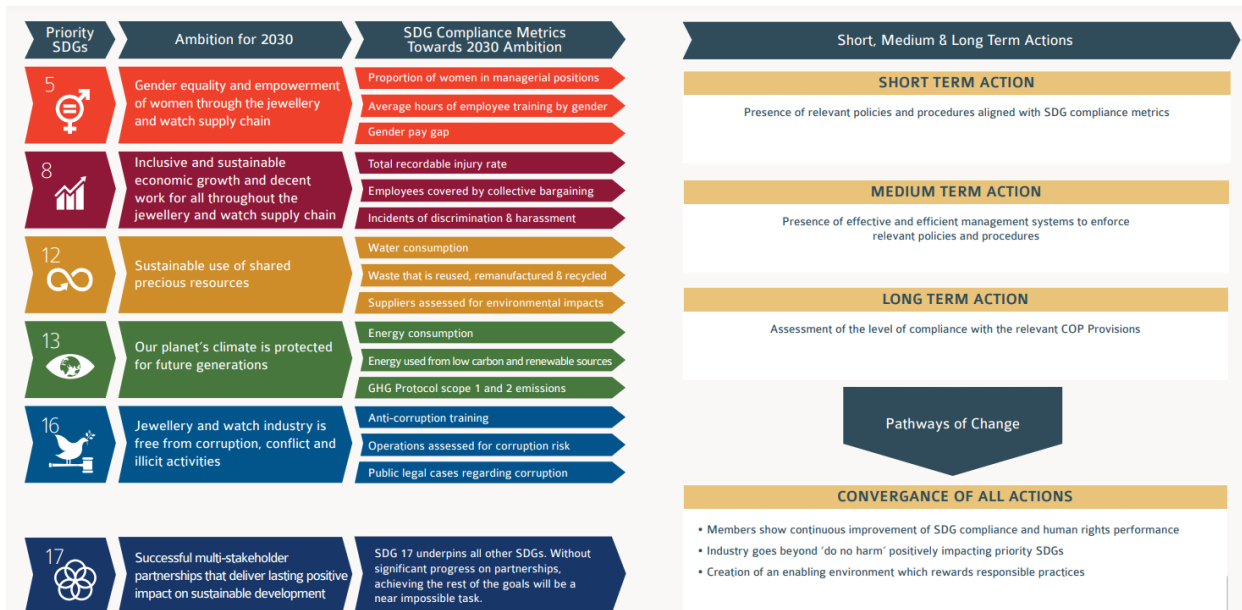
The LGMS is intended to be applicable to all industry members spanning the global jewellery and watch industry supply chain. The applicability of the standard is global, for a business of any size from small and medium sized enterprise (SME) to large companies.

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The scope of the LGMS development is directed by the RJC's Theory of Change (ToC), also known as the Roadmap to 2030. The ToC defines what RJC as an organisation aspire to achieve with its members by 2030 through the implementation of the 2019 Code of Practices. It proposes a detailed framework for our industry with respect to the most impactful contributions we can make



through our supply chains and provides attainable pathways to help the RJC and its members realise their collective ambitions.

Figure 1. RJC Roadmap Schematic

Justification of the Standard

The LGMS is needed as the industry has evolved. The LGMS will be an important industry standard, as consumers and businesses embrace the necessity of responsible business practices and need to publicly demonstrate their compliance against 'best practice' industry procedures and policies. The main objective of the LGMS is to ensure that it presents 'best practice' for responsible business practices in the jewellery industry, addressing current and future risks such as disclosure and manufacturing processes.

Certification to this standard will provide a strong system for assuring member's stakeholders, shareholders, customers and business partners that a company conducts its business ethically, responsibly and with integrity. This can add value to a company's products and help protect and enhance its brand.

As the number one standards body for the watch and jewellery industry, covering the entire supply chain from mine to retail, RJC has the responsibility, existing position and expertise to continue to provide strong and reliable standards for the industry.

Social, Environmental & Economic Outcomes

Through the development of the LGMS, RJC seeks to bring integrity to and achieve a responsible, sustainable, world-wide jewellery and watch supply chain.

The LGMS is intended to have a positive impact for workers, communities and environments and create transparency at every level of the supply chain, reduce risks and vulnerabilities in a company's supply chain and improve management systems and operating procedures to strengthen businesses and make them more sustainable.

RJC is committed to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable worldwide jewellery and watch supply chain. Importantly, RJC certification can reduce risks and vulnerabilities in a company's supply chain and improve management systems and operating procedures to strengthen the business and make it more sustainable. It simultaneously leads to better social and environmental conditions within the localised environment as well as the broader industry, bringing positive impacts for workers, communities and environments alike.

The development of the LGMS is intended to ensure value for certified companies by bringing integrity to their supply chains, sourcing practices and products; and help to protect and enhance their brand by increasing the confidence of customers.

Risk Assessment and Unintended Consequences

The following have been identified as the significant risks that may affect the RJC achieving its intended changes.

A. Lack of engagement with RJC members due to unfeasible standards

The RJC sets its standards to be 'best practice' for the jewellery supply chain, however with the geographical scope of the standards and sectors covered it

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requires a huge range of stakeholders find all provisions acceptable and feasible. Members sectors and national context may interpret the standard differently, so the RJC must ensure a balance is reached during the standard development process and ensure that 'best practice' moves the level of responsible business practices forward and does not force members/potential members to disengage from the certification process due to the standards being unfeasible.

B. Lack of partner recognition

One of the core reasons for the RJC establishment, was due to the 'audit-burden' encountered by its founder members' multiple verification on similar issues. The RJC seeks to harmonise and cross-recognise with standards/organisations that overlap or are adjacent to the RJC standard as much as possible. There is a risk that an organisation may not recognise the RJC standard and this could as a consequence limit the uptake of the standard as a consequence of further audit burden, particularly if the other system were to become a requirement in a key sector/geographic region to the RJC. The RJC will need to ensure that harmonisation/cross-recognition is achieved with any relevant standards/organisations.

C. Interpretation/Translations

As the RJC standard is a global standard, having its formal language set as English can create interpretations that differ once translated or inferred by non-native English speakers. The standards guidance needs to be written concisely, so that when translated it's meaning is not altered or opens the possibility of interpretation to alter the intent of the provision within the standard. Readers should always refer to the formal language version of standards documentation to understand their intent and expectations.

Unintended Consequences

A separate consultation exploring the unintended consequences of the LGMS will be conducted by a third-party consultant to ensure impartiality. The consultation will include industry and non-industry members of the Standards Committee, it is understood that the Standards Committee members are best placed to understand and address any unintentional consequences of the LGMS. All findings will be considered during the development of the LGMS.

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Workplan and timeline

STEP	NOTES & STATUS	NEXT STEPS	TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION
Standards committee approval of ToR	Terms of Reference on the review of the LGMS	Standards Committee to review and approve ToR	Complete
Preliminary consultation	30 days of public consultation on draft standard	During this time virtual round tables will be arranged to engage with stakeholders	Complete
Summary of preliminary consultation & development of draft standard	Combine feedback, draft responses, and finalise draft LGMS	Standards Committee to approve draft	Complete
Standards committee approval of draft LGMS	Draft LGMS needs further development, this draft is just a starting position.	Standards Committee to review and approve release of draft LGMS for public consultation	Complete
Round 1 consultation	60 days of public consultation on draft standard	During this time virtual round tables will be arranged to engage with stakeholders	Q2 2024 – Q3 2024
Summary of round 1 consultation & update to draft standard	Combine feedback, draft responses and amend draft LGMS	Work with Standards Committee to develop final standard and Guidance	Q3 2024 – Q4 2024
Round 2 consultation	30 days of public consultation on draft standard	During this time virtual round tables will be arranged to engage with stakeholders	Q4 2024 – Q4 2024
Summary of round 2 consultation & update to draft standard	Combine feedback, draft responses and amend draft LGMS	Work with Standards Committee to develop final standard and Guidance	Q4 2024
Standards Committee approval of updated LGMS	Final draft standard shared with Standards Committee	Final approval by Standards Committee	Q4 2024
Development of guidance	Standards committee and LGMS Taskforce development of guidance	Board approval & release of updated LGMS and guidance	2025

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