



Standards Committee Meeting

14 September 2021

Summary notes

Standards Committee participants: Purvi Shah, Natalia Zhulina, Phaedon Stamatopoulos, Emmanuel Piat, Joelle Ponnelle, Keshia Frank, Noora Jamsheer, Marcin Piersiak, Jennifer Peyser, Ainsley Butler, Cecilia Gardner, Jennifer Hillard, Sara Yood, Emily Sims.

Apologies: Fabiana Di Lorenzo, Marianna Smirnova

RJC Management Team: Peter Dawkins (Standards Manager), Nawal Ait-Hocine (RJC consultant)

Materials circulated in advance of call: Presentation slides, draft of revised COP, 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 Emily Sims.

2. Review of COP Provisions - Mining

The standards manager shared a presentation to give an update of the COP review, giving an overview of the reasoning as indicating which provisions would be amended. The update specifically looked at a review of mining provisions to begin. It was emphasised revisions are being made to ensure RJC aligns with industry best practices and ensures its place as the leading standard in the industry. Amendments will impact all members of all sizes, not just mining and metal pressing. Standard committee members are not required to give feedback on the current draft COP until the consultation stage. Committee members approved the decision to release the draft for public consultation.

3. Review of COP Provisions – laboratories

An update was given on the outcome of the laboratory task force recommendations which were included in the draft COP update. The recommendations specifically looked at amendments to provisions COP12 KYC, and COP30 Grading and appraisal. The committee was reminded that everything in the draft will be subject to public consultation and therefore subject to change as per consultation feedback.

The committee have consensus to move ahead on the proposal to take begin consultation, which will take the approach that aligns with ISEAL requirements.

4. Scope expansion – coloured gemstones

Coloured gemstone taskforce concluded that the scope of RJC materials should expand to all coloured gemstones, pearls and corals. The first round of consultation will provide feedback and comments on this expansion, especially applicability of existing provisions and sourcing of pearls and corals.

5. Timeline – scope expansion & COP update

RJC is a member of ISEAL and will therefore follow the procedures they outline. Standards committee was given an outline of the timeline and procedure for both the scope expansion and the COP update, as per ISEAL procedure. The post consultation review of standards and comments with the standards committee will follow the same procedure as previously. Standards committee members will be asked to give input on revised provisions, given their expertise in certain areas they will be asked to give input into particular areas.

The public consultation will ensure that all stakeholder groups are included. For this reason, RJC has conducted stakeholder mapping in order to actively reach out to groups that may be vulnerable or underrepresented during the consultation process. The RJC management team will be holding stakeholder meetings in key markets and areas to ensure maximum engagement from all groups

6. Training

Member training is now a part of standards. The standards team has created a year of training sessions, with some sessions having already taken place, including COP6 & COP7, EU conflict minerals regulation, CoC for downstream, KYC & AML, Provenance claims. The committee was shown an overview of the 2021 training workplan. Sessions have been organised in partnership with external organisations such as ARM, the Futurist, Houlden Jewellers, BGI/SBGA.

The team is looking to do more pre-recorded trainings and webinars in order to make them more available and accessible to members.

7. Toolkits

Sustainability toolkit for SMEs and non-RJC members, as well as the retailer toolkit, has been released. The due diligence toolkit for precious metals is being finalised, and the COP reporting templates for members (COP3, 6, 7, 27) are currently in design. RJC is currently developing a 1-2 page guidance for each COP provision as well as a human rights due diligence toolkit.

8. AOB



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Finally, moving forward the standards team will be growing with the addition of 2 more members. There will be an extraordinary standards meeting before November, to be announced.

One audit has already been conducted for the EU recognised scheme, with 2 shadow audits further confirmed. We are awaiting news for the 4th and final audit. Supplementary guidance for the CoC has been released for members and auditors. This will provide support in regard to on-site assessment of outsourced contractors, resale of returned CoC material and amendment to the use of transfer documents, physical and digital segregation has been completed. The pilot study for inclusion of diamonds into the CoC is ongoing.

The OECD due diligence toolkit specifically on metals to support with compliance of COP 7 is being finalised. Under ISEAL Grants, the M3 Mining Minerals & Metals project with IRMA; Responsible Steel and MAC is progressing slowly. We are planning an event at IGF in Oct 2021. RJC have also teamed up with Bonsucro to apply for a small grant to carry a project on due diligence and Grievance mechanism (benchmarking, developing best practices/guidance for ISEAL Members and the VSSs members).

Various translations of standards documents have also been added (Spanish COP suite, Russian COP), CoC suite in Spanish now completed

We are still looking for experts to join standards committee as non industry:

- Coloured stones expert
- Environmental issues expert
- ESG finance / sustainability finance expert
- Supply chain expert