AGENDA

Standards Committee Teleconference

Tuesday 23 April 2013

Teleconference times

- Vancouver/Carlsbad/Seattle @ 0600;
- Salt Lake City @0700;
- New York/Toronto/Ottawa @ 0900;
- London @ 1400;
- Antwerp/Paris@ 1500;
- Johannesburg@ 1500
- Nairobi @1600;
- Mumbai @ 1830;
- Melbourne@ 2300.

Participants: Ryan Taylor (Co-Chair), David Bouffard (Co-Chair), Alan Martin, Rob Headley, Didier Backaert, Cecilia Gardner, Larry Drummond, Jennifer Horning, Juliane Kippenberg, Jon Hobbs, Iris van der Veken, Wilfried Horner, Assheton Stewart Carter, Marcelle Shoop, Stephane Fischler, Ngomesia Mayer-Kechom, Felix Hruschka, Nicholas Allen (on behalf of Michele Bruelhart), Fiona Solomon, Marieke van der Mijn, Michael Rae, Graham Nicholls, Sam Brumale.
Apologies: Philip Hunter, Andrew Parsons, Stan Lurie, Steven Oates, Eva Carlson, Estelle Levin, Claus Teilmann Petersen.

Documents circulated:

- Minutes of Standards Committee teleconference, 19 March 2012
- Powerpoint presentation for April 23, 2012
- Draft Standards Guidance chapters – Mining Sector (11 documents) – circulated with call information
- Draft Standards Guidance chapters – remaining COP – circulated on April 24 (day after this teleconference)

Attendees are kindly reminded that the RJC is committed to complying with all relevant antitrust and competition laws and regulations and, to that end, has adopted an Anti-trust Policy Statement, compliance with which is a condition of continued RJC membership. Failure to abide by these laws can potentially have extremely serious consequences for the RJC and its members, including heavy fines and, in some jurisdictions, imprisonment for individuals. You are therefore asked to have due regard to this Policy today and indeed in respect of all other RJC activity.

1. **Welcome**
   - Jon Hobbs from WWF was welcomed to the Standards Committee. He has replaced Patrick Laine from WWF, whose contributions over the last 18 months have been appreciated.
   - Rob Headley informed the Committee that he is leaving Jewelers of America and hence the Standards Committee. His significant involvement in the Standards Committee for a number of years, including as a previous Co-Chair, are warmly acknowledged.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**
   - Minutes of the Standards Committee teleconference on 19 March 2012 were approved and will be posted on the RJC website at: http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/rjc-standards-committee/

3. **RJC Code of Practices review**

- The circulated Powerpoint presentation summarised how the Committee is working towards the start of the final comment period for COP Revisions and draft Standards Guidance (proposed commencement on May 30).
- Discussion of identified topics:
  - **Working Hours:**
    - Agreed to define 'collective bargaining agreement' more precisely in the Glossary and Guidance, as per comments received from Standards Committee Members, and to respond to questions from India COP Review committee. The guidance will discuss what is acceptable, for example in countries where freedom of association is restricted, or where agreements are not the result of genuine collective bargaining processes.

  Mining Sector
  - **Facilities:**
    - No comments or questions were received to the change of the glossary definition of Mining Sector and opening up the scope to exploration companies.
  - **FPIC:**
    - It is important that RJC and ICMM are aligned on this Provision. ICMM are working towards a position statement, and preliminary feedback suggests that wording such as 'work to obtain the consent of Indigenous Peoples' would create alignment.
  - **Biodiversity:**
    - Changes to this Provision were well received.
    - Suggest add 'adverse' to 3(b), to differentiate from the potentially positive impacts of mining on biodiversity.
    - Question was raised whether any current RJC Members have undersea mining operations – not currently in terms of the proposed provision, but companies could join in future.
  - **Tailings:**
    - Changes to this Provision were well received, no further comments.
  - **Mercury:**
    - Question as to whether there are alternatives to mercury at an ASM level? Very hazardous to the operator, draft standard may not signal how dangerous it really is. It was noted that the Minamata Convention acknowledges that ASM can't change overnight, that training and capacity building is important to enable a transition. The Convention aims to eliminate worst practices in national action plans eg open burning, use in residential areas etc, where these practices can be eliminated without putting livelihoods at risk – see Annex E of Convention. It was agreed to add more discussion in the Guidance.
    - Discussion of wording re 'where feasible', 'minimise' and the Minamata Convention language. It was agreed to further reference the Convention in the guidance, particularly with regards to application to types of Facilities.

- ***Action:*** *RJC to incorporate suggestions as discussed into draft COP provisions and Guidance.*
- ***Action:*** *Standards Committee members requested to provide further feedback on all draft Guidance chapters by Friday May 24 before the final comment period begins.*
- ***Action:*** *Standards Committee members are invited to contact Fiona and Marieke with any questions/comments about other provisions or issues for discussion at the May 22 face-to-face meeting in Milan.*

4. **RJC Chain-of-Custody – applicability to diamonds**

- The circulated Powerpoint presentation included a one slide summary comparison of the proposed Provenance Claims provision in COP, with the draft Chain-of-Custody Standard applicable to diamonds.
- Discussion of next steps – benefits and risks of each option.
  - The current priority of the COP review, and the management team resources required to complete it, were acknowledged.
  - The COP review is addressing the 'Provenance Claims' aspect of the diamond subcommittee recommendation.
  - Various Committee members noted both the various views in the industry towards Chain-of-Custody for diamonds, and expectations that the issues be moved forward.
  - The recommendation to complete the COP review and revisit the CoC issue towards the end of 2013 was supported by the Committee.
  - During this time, other dialogue processes, for example related to the OECD Due Diligence Guidance, may progress understanding of the issues among stakeholders.

- ***Action:*** *The Standards Committee agreed that the discussion on the applicability of diamonds in the Chain-of-Custody will be delayed until the Code of Practices Review is finalised.*

5. Update on other relevant initiatives

- OECD Due Diligence Guidance: Meetings were to be held in Paris on May 2-3 on the OECD Guidance, relating to gold, tin, tungsten and tantalum. Side meetings included the LBMA Gold Forum on May 1, and a precious stones meeting on April 30. RJC participated in all meetings and presented its standards work directly and via its Members.

6. Any other business

- None raised.

7. Standards Committee schedule –2013 dates:

- Face-to-face meeting May 22, 2013, the day before the RJC AGM in Milan.
- **Please note:** Committee members are welcome to contact Fiona Solomon and Marieke van der Mijn to arrange times to discuss input or feedback in more detail between formal meetings, or initiate discussion by email.