

Standards Committee Meeting notes 14th February 2024

Standards Committee Participants: Purvi Shah, Ainsley Buttler, Didier Backaert, Charlene Nemson, Eleonora Rizzuto, Maggie Gabos, Sabrina Karib, Trisevgeni Stavropoulos, Joelle Ponnelle, Marie-Charlotte Druesne Chancogne, Jennifer Hillard, Sara Yood, Salah Hussein, Marcin Piersiak, Gina DaMato (ARM) and Gavin Hilson

Guests of the Committee: Ebony Yeboah- Amankwah, Marco Quadri and Eduard Stefanescu

RJC Management Team: Suzanne Brooks (Senior Standards Manager) Caroline Watson (Assistant Standards Manager), Daniel Finn (Standards Programme Coordinator), Melanie Grant (Executive Director 'ED'), John Hall (Strategic Advisor), Andreea Cojanu Davidoiu (General Manager Assurance & Certification), Yagmur Masmaz (Senior Certification manager), Rachael Morey (Assurance manager) and Effie Marinou (RJC Technical Advisor).

Observers: *No observers*

Materials circulated in advance of call:

- Presentation slide deck.
- Meeting minutes from the 25 January 2024 - for approval in the meeting.
- Tier 2 COP Provisions – remaining from the December in-person meeting.
- Link to a short survey for the Standards Committee to provide feedback.

Co-Chair, Ainsley Butler gave an introduction. The Committee was reminded of the RJC's conflict of interest policy, Chatham House rules and anti-trust statement and was given an overview of the agenda for today's call. Participation was noted by the RJC Senior Standards Manager. Approval of the 25 January 2024 minutes was given by Purvi Shah and Joelle Ponnelle. The committee was made aware of the captured actions from the December in-person meeting which will be made available online.

Executive Update

Executive Director (ED) provided overview of ISO discussions and recycled gold definition and stated that the RJC are continuing discussions with stakeholders. CoC roundtables have now finished. RJC will be hosting an internal Standards Committee call 6th March on the Recycled definition. John Hall told committee he will be drafting a guidance document on upcoming G7 legislation which will be released on 1st March for RJC members. RJC to send a special newsletter early in March to support the implementation of the G7 Russian diamond import restrictions. There will be a special training call on 5th March for RJC members around the Russian import restrictions. The RJC are looking to stay up to date with legislation and is looking for appropriate resourcing for this. Committee asked for suggestions, no response provided. ISEAL Independent Evaluation procedure (IEP) update provided. ISEAL assessment doesn't need to be completed until 2025.

Standards Committee Update

RJC team welcomed first guests of the committee, Eduard, Ebony and Marco. New guests of the committee introduced themselves to everyone. The Committee were reminded of their expectations as committee members. Overview given of committee representation and new members from January. Committee reminded of the upcoming LGMS call on 22nd February. Committee was reminded of the industry member vacancies on the committee and were asked to recommend new members. SAAMP new industry representative will be joining in March. Committee reminded to complete the survey on the standards committee meetings. The committee were reminded of key upcoming dates including in-person meetings and how these

align across the different standards. Committee members asked where the in-person meeting in July will be hosted. RJC are still to confirm a venue but will keep the committee updated.

RJC Recognition against the EU CMR

An update was provided on the EU Commission's decision to conduct further shadow audits as part of recognition assessment, clarification was given on the scope of these audits and if other schemes were undergoing a similar issue. The RJC shared information with audit firms and updates on the past 18 months' collaboration. Control over the application lies with the EU Commission. Queries were raised about risks associated with the application and it was noted for the ED to address it with the Executive Committee (ExCo) and seeking feedback from the Standard Committee (SCO). Committee members inquired about potential support from members with larger corporate affairs teams in Europe and express concerns about the audit's effectiveness. The RJC acknowledges these concerns and emphasizes the need to clarify and explain the audit report further. The committee discussed whether auditors are being asked to do more than the RJC can handle, a member shared their organization's experience in a similar process.

Standards programme update

Committee reminded of key dates and deliverables and the ways of working expected from the committee throughout 2024. They were reminded of different ways of providing feedback.

COP

A summary was given of the post committee workshop actions, including the discussion around summary audit reports. An update of the Assurance committee discussions on this was given. The RJC team is working through the outcomes of the December workshop. ISEAL discussions concluded that the self-assessment will not be ready until March and ISEAL are still working out how to best evaluate their standard. No Independent evaluation is required until 2025 so RJC can go ahead with the development of the standards. RJC can do a voluntary self-assessment against new code when ready. Draft guidance is being developed after 2 rounds of consultation and in-person workshop. A high-level timeline was shared with SCO outlining the key dates.

CoC

CoC round 2 consultation closed end of Jan with roundtables held w/c 12th. RJC are now consolidating comments with the draft guidance being developed. High level timelines were shared outlining the key dates. It was noted that there may need to be a 3rd round of consultation targeting specific stakeholders on the recycled definition. Committee asked if ISO is proposing a definition with a vote on Friday and asked for RJC thoughts on the proposal. RJC discussed initial thoughts and the role of the RJC CoC standard when it comes to recycled materials. RJC are aware of ISO timelines and are taking these into consideration in relation to the CoC standard review. The ED noted how important the recycled definition is and emphasised the need for RJC to look at the granularity of the definition. Committee member asked what the ISO definition of recycled gold is and some clarification was provided. Further clarification was also given on when the next ISO vote is and the process. A SCO member noted that there is another ISO committee looking at environmental claims of recycled metals, highlighting that the definition is multi-faceted, with a requirement to look at the definition of waste. This definition of waste impacts the pre- and post-consumer definition of recycled gold. Standards Committee (SCO) were reminded of the dedicated session recycled gold on 6th March. When giving a summary of the upcoming CoC dates, it was noted these may be impacted by the potential need for a 3rd round of consultation.

LGMS

The draft will be sent to the LGMS taskforce after the initial meeting on the 22nd of Feb. RJC has established a taskforce (TF) and is continuing to reach out to further candidates. An overview of the purpose and content of this first meeting was given. Further candidates were recommended by the committee RJC will send the draft LGM standard to the TF with a workshop aimed to take

place in March. SCO reminded of the proposed governance structure new forum on the board and additional committee members. SCO members asked to see the list of TF members and their experience. Further clarification was given on the governance.

AOB

RJC highlighted the upcoming dates and expectations of the committee in the coming months. Committee reminded to provided survey response by 8th March.

Closing remarks and thanks were given by from the co-chair Purvi Shah.