

RJC Standards Committee meeting

Date: 14th May 2025

Standards Committee Attendees:

- Purvi Shah, Ainsley Butler, Philippe Telouk, Robin Kolvenbach, Didier Backaert, Joelle Ponnelle, Marie-Charlotte, Charlene Nemson, Silvia Bezzone, Jennifer Hillard, Renata Lawton Misra, Monica Barcellos Harris, Marcin Piersiak.

Guests of the Committee:

- Marco Quadri, Kim Wenzel, Eduard Stefanescu.

RJC Management Team:

- John Hall, Suzanne Brooks, Caroline Watson, Effie Marinos, Megan Gannon, (in attendance) Andreea Cojanu Davidoiu, Charlotte Stanbridge, Lyon Tetteh, James Hall.

Apologies:

- Ilan Keplan, Trisevgeni Stavropoulos, Noora Jamsheer, Tehmasp Printer, Alexander Gul, Laurent Massi, Salah Hussein, Sara Yood, Maggie Gabos, Gavin Hilson.

- **Introduction and welcome**

After the introduction by Purvi Shah, as Industry Co-Chair of the Committee, Committee members were reminded of the RJC Terms of Reference and Anti-Trust Policy. Roll call was taken and minutes of the previous meeting held were approved as read.

- **Executive update**

The Executive Director noted that there are plans to investigate the possibilities of an expansion in scope of materials, including other coloured gemstones, and diamonds; this would be an important next step for the RJC. More discussion on this is expected with the Committee playing a key role in the forward-looking process and approach.

- **Education and training**

Charlotte Stanbridge provided an overview of the data on member webinars, including statistics on number of attendees, number of member companies, and geographic scope of attendees. Webinars hosted this year so far includes 'The introduction of the 2024 COP & COC' (on audit and certification processes), and the 'COP and COC clinic'. It was noted that there will be a LGMS, Audit & Certification webinar to be held in June and September. The RJC team also presented the most common topics asked about in the webinar. Information was provided on the new tools being launched, including the Standards and Audit Changes Information Pack (launched 6th May at France roadshow), and a tool to help members handling lab-grown materials to navigate the standards and the audit requirements. The committee were taken through the new auditor training, noting that auditors must complete these by the 30th of May. So far, 10 of the 18 hours training required for the COP course is APSCA-recognised. Data was given on the current auditor training progress, including how many passed or have been reassigned.

Following a query, the RJC confirmed that auditors must pass the modules before they can audit against the new standards. A concern was also raised that there is a gap in some countries with auditors, to which the RJC noted that they have identified the issue and are liaising with the audit firms.

There was a query raised regarding the publication of the information and tools available to members. The RJC team confirmed that tools, where applicable, will go on the website, bulletin board, newsletters, signatures, and the member portal. When asked who designed the training, it was noted that assurance and standards provided the content, and the Knowledge department provided the design and platform.

- **Standards committee updates**

The RJC confirmed that a process is currently underway for the reformation of the committee for 2025 to 2026. The RJC team have been looking at the terms of reference (ToR), committee composition, gaps to address and skills/expertise needed for prospective candidates. The ToR will be shared with the committee members in due course. In addition to filling gaps from existing terms, a new forum seat will be added for lab-grown producers. An overview of the timeline was given, and the RJC requested any nominations/recommendations from the committee by end of May, to allow RJC to review the prospective candidates in June.

It was asked how committee representation may be impacted if the RJC expands its scope of materials and how those skills can be brought into the committee. The RJC confirmed that this is a longer-term plan, and they plan to revisit the scope expansion project within the next 3 years, in addition to other projects such as expanding the scope of the COC.

- **Standards updates (COP, COC, and LGMS)**

The RJC provided an overview of the translations progress and asked for support for French translation for the COP and LGMS and stressed that this is critical as the deadline for review is the end of May. An update was given on current workstreams for the COP and COC standards, including a communications campaign, the audit training, self-assessment, and the roadshows. The COP self-assessment development is in its final stages.

There was a discussion surround cross-recognition against other standards, and what are the plans for benchmarking moving forward. The RJC confirmed that a benchmarking exercise is being conducted internally first, against existing recognised standards, and then a second stage will be conducted on other potential standards (this may be conducted externally). A committee member raised concerns that there are not a lot of mining members within the committee, and that there are not a lot of recognised mining standards. Recognising other mining standards, especially gold mining will need to be considered as part of the COP benchmarking. A discussion was had on the risk if RJC recognises standards and the recognition is not returned. It was noted that some standards are not fully recognised by RJC because in some cases they are not strong enough, or there is not enough demand.

- **Laboratory-Grown Material Standard (LGMS)**

The LGMS guidance is in the final stages of design and will be communicated to the relevant stakeholders once ready, with translations of the guidance to follow. An LGMS webinar will be held on the 29th of May. The RJC confirmed that the LGM member nominations for the AGM have closed.

- **AOB**

The RJC confirmed that EU alignment assessment is ongoing, and a brief update on the RJC Climate Research project was provided. Noted attendance at upcoming events, include JCK and the 2025 roadshows. The committee were reminded of the informal committee meeting on the 21st and the team will feedback on any key discussions and follow-up actions at the June meeting.

The meeting ended with thanks from the Non-Industry Co-Chair, Ainsley Butler.