

RJC Committee Meeting

Date: 16th April 2025

Standards Committee participants: Sara Yood, Didier Backaert, Philippe Telouk, Joelle Ponnelle, Silvia Bezzone, Jennifer Hillard, Purvi Shah, Robin Kolvenbach, Noora Jamsheer, Gavin Hilson, Alexander Gul, Maggie Gabos, Charlene Nemson.

In attendance: Eyal Atzmon, RJC Assurance Committee Chair

Guests of the committee: Marco Quadri.

Apologies: Ainsley Butler, Marie-Charlotte Druesne, Marcin Piersiak, Monica Barcellos Harris, Renata Lawton-Misra, Kimberley Wenzel, Eduard Stefanescu, Ilan Keplan, Trisevgeni Stavropoulos, Tehmasp Printer, Laurent Massi, Salah Hussein, Caroline Watson

RJC Management Team: John Hall, Suzanne Brooks, Melanie Grant, Effie Marinos, James Hall, Megan Gannon.

Materials circulated in advance of call:

- Meeting presentation slides.
- Standards Committee Minutes for 19th of March meeting.

Standards Committee co-chair Purvi Shah opened the meeting and gave an introduction.

The Committee was reminded of the RJC's conflict of interest policy and anti-trust statement and was given an overview of the agenda in the meeting. Participation was noted by the RJC Senior Standards Manager.

March meeting minutes approval:

- Industry: Joelle Ponnelle
- Non-industry: Jenny Hillard

○ Executive Update

The Executive Director highlighted and thanked the Committee and RJC teams for all the progress made in getting the three Standards approved and published. The translations process is well underway and the guidance document for the LGMS is in the design phase with an agency. The Executive Director expressed thanks to the work of the Assurance team in their production of the new CPR and assurance manual, particularly in the lead up to 1st of July when audits can begin taking place.

The Executive Director also noted to the committee that the AGM Nomination period opens on 28 March and closes on 25 April 2025, with voting period 28 April to 2 June. The AGM will be held on 4 June at 13.00hrs.

There was discussion reflecting on the amount of work the Committee has produced and in turn, the level of impact the expanded standards will have on time allocated to audits going forward. Feedback was discussed that from an auditor perspective and the new auditor and certification process that this would have dual impact. Once the audits start to take place, the RJC we will be able to review timing accordingly. This has been a critical year of change, particularly in adapting to the three new standards and aligning members with these shifts. Much progress has been made with training and education and increased representation at trade shows and events. The committee suggested further, and clearer membership communication is required, including a key summary of changes and expected timelines, as well as making concise, accessible summaries crucial. It was agreed that this would be an agenda

item for the next Committee meeting. Further clarification was given that at present webinars are conducted in English.

- **Standards Committee Updates**

The RJC will commence with a gap analysis and assessing the future needs of the Committee ahead of the re-formation for 2026. The Senior Standards Manager put out a call for nominations to the Committee highlighting that there would be a 3-month transition period and onboarding for the new members. A breakdown of the key steps was shared.

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

An update was given on the translation timelines, confirming that the standards and guidance materials are being translated into French, German, Italian and Spanish. The priority will be for the standards to be published, followed by the guidance documents which are significantly larger in size and content.

The RJC confirmed that updated COP and & COC guidance documents have been released with version numbering. It was requested that any queries for revision are sent to the RJC team, and they will be logged for future revisions. The RJC notified the committee that these adjustments might not happen straight away.

The RJC confirmed that for supporting workstreams 4 webinars have been held and that the RJC has almost completed the self-assessment revision which will then be translated into its core languages. A committee member raised a query regarding who receives member training emails and what has been the uptake on the webinars. The RJC confirmed that all information goes into the newsletter and that uptake on webinars has been popular, with plans to do more. The RJC team agreed to go away and confirm webinar stats and email outreach.

The RJC confirmed that they will be in Paris for OECD week on the 6th of May. The RJC confirmed that they will also be hosting roadshows in London, New York, India and Italy (location and dates to be shared).

- **Laboratory-Grown Material Standard**

Laboratory Grown Material Standard (LGMS) released 25 Feb 2025, with new effective date to be 1st May. The RJC team confirmed that for existing members already certified against the COP, there will be a 12-month transition period from the effective date of 1st May 2025 to be certified against the LGMS if they are in scope, even if this means an early recertification to the COP. The only exception is where an organisation has a standalone LGMS business, they could have just that entity certified to the LGMS standard, to match their COP expiry date. A member raised a query regarding the timeline and certification route for the LGMS standard. The RJC team will schedule a meeting to discuss this separately.

Design agency has commenced with the LGMS guidance into the template and this will be translated. The RJC team are awaiting feedback on provision 28. Next step is to finalise design and publish onto the website. RJC will reach out to those who volunteered to participate in translations. New LGM forum on the RJC Board means that there are 3 seats open.

- **LGMS Guidance, definitions**

The committee was reminded in the approach that the RJC has taken in terms of what is a functional component. The RJC mentioned they had received viewpoints on this definition, however this strayed further into aesthetics, rather than functional. The RJC has settled on the components of a watch being functional, rather than an embellishment. In a discussion of the embellishment definition, the RJC also reminded the committee that if LGMS embellishments are being used, these are in scope and must be certified against the LGMS standard.

- **AOB and Closing**

The RJC confirmed that they are waiting to hear back from Kumi regarding 2 shadow audits for the EU CMR recognition.

The RJC and committee members discussed the next date of the committee member meeting, and for a proposed date of 14th of May rather than the 21st of May. The RJC confirmed that the meeting on the 13th of August is to be removed from calendars as previously agreed.

A query was raised regarding the 20th anniversary event, and the details of it. The RJC confirmed that a team member will circulate more information. It was also suggested that we propose a face-to-face meeting after the anniversary event with confirmation to be given at a later date.

The meeting ended.