

Standards Committee Meeting Minutes

17th April 2024

Standards Committee Participants: Telouk SAAMP, Noora Jamsheer, Ainsley Butler, Maggie Gabos, Purvi Shah, Gina DaMato, Charlene Nemson, Marie- Charlotte Druesne-Chancogne, Joëlle Ponnelle, Lea Meheust, Didier Backaert and Robin Kolvenbach.

RJC Management Team: Melanie Grant (Executive Director), Suzanne Brooks (Senior Standards Manger), Caroline Watson (Standards Manager), Effie Marinos (Special Advisor Technical Standards), Andreea Cojanu Davidoiu (General Manager Assurance and Certification), Sonnet Dowden (Senior Manager of Digital Projects, Daniel Finn (Standards Programme Coordinator).

Apologies: Marie-Charlotte Druesne-Chancogne (leave at 3pm), Marcin Piersiak, Sara Yood and Jennifer Hillard.

Date: 17th April 2024

Time: 14:00-15:30pm (BST)

Location: Virtual via Teams link

Materials circulated in advance of call:

- Presentation slide deck.
- Meeting Minutes from the 13th of March 2024 – for approval in the meeting.
- Discussion document: RJC Provenance Claim Derogation to RJC COP Guidance (Seeking agreement by consensus from the Standards Committee at the meeting)

1. Opening

The meeting commenced with the meeting Co-Chair and Senior Standards Manager providing introductions and welcoming all attendees. Approval of the March meeting minutes was confirmed by Purvi Shah and Robin Kolvenbach. Attendees were reminded of the RJC's conflict of interest policy, Chatham House rules, and anti-trust statement. An overview of the agenda for the meeting was presented.

2. Executive Update

An executive update was provided on the recent board meeting and new RJC Chairman Dave Maleski was welcomed, with an overview given on the Standards development and G7 guidance. Further conversations continue on the recycled materials definition. Co-Chair Purvi further elaborated on the G7 guidance issued by the RJC and clarified some issues with application of the G7 restrictions in practice.

3. Standards Committee Updates

A summary of industry and non-industry composition was provided along with guests of the committee. It was noted that the representative for Bulgari will be changing, and this will be the former representatives last meeting. The committee member took the opportunity to say some departing words. The representative for Argor Heraeus has also changed. Senior Standards Manager provided a clarification of the governance around appointments and a change of representation. A summary was provided on the leads and recruitment of new SCO members. The committee were given the opportunity to provide their thoughts on succession planning as terms are coming to an end later in the year.

4. Standards Programme Updates

4.1 G7 Provenance Claim Derogation to RJC COP Guidance

A summary was provided on provenance claims and their relation to the G7 restrictions. The committee were presented with a derogation on making claims around provenance in the context of G7 legal requirements. A question was asked about what this change would mean in practice for auditors, and clarification was given on the practicalities of implementation. Further clarification was given on the rationale and value behind the derogation. A question was raised regarding making the derogation requirements optional or mandatory, to which it was clarified that at this point it is to be optional. It was confirmed that communication on the derogation will need to be very clear. Committee members took a vote, and no consensus was reached on approving the G7 Provenance Claim Derogation on the call, and it was noted that the RJC team would follow up with committee members not on the call to collate their response.

4.2 Code of Practices (COP)

The committee are reminded that the COP is now out for a 60-day consultation as part of the full review. Roundtables will be hosted in May and will be organised by geographical time zone to maximise attendance and inclusivity. It was noted that the RJC are working on the guidance in parallel with the consultation and this will be shared with the committee for the review of their designated provision areas ahead of the next meeting.

4.3 Chain of Custody (CoC)

The committee are reminded that the CoC is now out for a focused 30-day consultation on recycled materials. There will be no roundtables unless specifically requested. The CoC guidance is also being worked on in parallel with the consultation and this will be shared with the committee for the review of their designated provision areas in due course.

4.4 Laboratory- Grown Materials Standard (LGMS)

Initial technical review has been completed with the LGMS taskforce with 3 meetings have been held so far. The committee were made aware that the draft standard would be circulated prior to a drop-in session with the taskforce Co-Chairs on 7th May. The first round of consultation for the LGMS is set to go out in June, and this is currently on track.

5. Any Other Business (AOB)

No further update on EU Conflict Mineral Regulation regarding shadow audits. A question was asked on the length of the shadow audits, and it was noted the team will follow up with the relevant teams and provide feedback when this is clearer.

The RJC will not be hosting a side event at the OECD Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains but will be attending in person. There may be a potential opportunity for a hybrid standards committee meeting during the OECD forum. A high-level summary of important upcoming committee dates was provided.

Closing Comments

Closing comments and thanks were provided by Industry Co-Chair, Purvi Shah.

Next Meeting: 22nd May, 14:00pm (BST), Virtual via Teams link.