

RJC Standards Committee meeting

Date: 17th September 2025

Standards Committee Attendees:

- Purvi Shah, Robin Kolvenbach, Didier Backaert, Joelle Ponnelle, Marie-Charlotte Druesne Chancogne, Noora Jamsheer, Alexander Gul, Sara Yood, Gavin Hilson, Renata Lawton-Misra, Monica Barcellos Harris, Marcin Piersiak, Jennifer Hillard, Charlène Nemson, Maggie Gabos

Guests of the Committee:

- Eduard Stefanescu

Other in Attendance:

- Leo Daguet, Chief Sustainability Officer, LVMH (for the RJC STF), Laure Williams (Richemont)

RJC Management Team:

- John Hall, Suzanne Brooks, Effie Marinos, Caroline Watson, Andreea Cojanu Davidoiu, Charlotte Stanbridge, Megan Gannon

Apologies:

- Ainsley Butler, Phillippe Telouk, Salah Hussein, Kim Wenzel, Melanie Grant, Sylvia Bezzone, Tehmasp Printer, Trisevgeni Stavropoulos, Ilan Keplan, Laurent Massi, Marco Quadri

Introduction and welcome

An introduction was given 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. A request was made by a member on the previous minutes for the reformation and process to be clearer in the minutes.

- **Executive update**

The Executive Director provided an update on the roadshows, highlighting the most recently being held in London. The briefings were highlighted as well received, and the RJC has been asked to return to New York following the roadshow for follow up member meetings. Upcoming roadshows are in India, in Mumbai and Surat. He also informed the committee that a retailer campaign is being released on the 18th September, containing information and communications that can be used to front-facing consumers, in aim of increasing awareness of the RJC amongst consumers.

- **Standards Roadshows**

An overview was given of the standards roadshow agenda, with recent successes including an in-person event in London and a virtual one in Thailand. Upcoming roadshows were confirmed, including in Biel in Switzerland and India. A suggestion was given to have Standards

Committee members attending the roadshows, with the RJC confirming the idea would be beneficial, noting that some committee members have previously attended but not presented. The industry Co-Chair queried the themes of questions received at the roadshows, with the RJC confirming they had primarily included audit and certification processes and timelines. Other topics tended to be raised through the one-to-one sessions including questions on implementation of COP 27 greenhouse gas emissions and the RJC confirmed that a member webinar on this topic will be held next month.

- **Standards Committee Reformation**

Suzanne Brooks, General Manager of Standards confirmed that the Executive Committee (ExCo) had endorsed the proposed candidates on the 27th August, with outreach scheduled to conclude by the 19th September. New approved committee members will be invited to join the RJC meeting in December. Once approved, the new candidates will be presented to the committee. Consideration was given to broadening representation including location, supply chain representation and geographies in deciding the reformation criteria for all committee members. Location of potential candidates for non-industry included Europe, And North and South America. Location of potential candidates for industry included Europe, UAE, Thailand, India and North America. Following committee member queries, the RJC confirmed all recommended candidates have been endorsed by ExCo and will be contacted as part of the outreach, noting the number of available vacancies. The final list will be circulated after roles are accepted and approved, taking into consideration all data protection requirements.

- **In-person meeting 16th-18th December 2025**

Thanks were extended by the RJC to those who have confirmed attendance. The location of the meeting was confirmed as Sadlers Wells, London for the first two days (16th and 17th December), and at De Beers' London office on the 18th December. A brief overview of the agenda for the three days was provided.

- **RJC standards- Implementation and roll out**

A high-level update of the Standards and Guidance communication plans was provided by Caroline Watson, Standards Manager. It was confirmed that the self-assessment for the Code of Practice (COP), and the combined self-assessment for COP and the Laboratory Grown Materials Standards (LGMS), have been released. The Chain of Custody (COC) self-assessment is in the testing phase. An audit navigator tool has been developed and released to help members identify which standards they need to implement and when.

Translations of the Standard and Guidance documents are in the final stages, with a few outstanding documents, including self-assessment documents, which will begin shortly. The standards and auditor training pack has been well received. Updates were provided on upcoming webinars for members, including member workshops on 19th September, an auditor webinar on 2nd October, and a climate webinar on 30th October. A committee member raised a query regarding the current method for completing the self-assessment for the COC standard, as the updated self-assessment has not yet been released. The RJC confirmed that members are being directed to the 2017 self-assessment, and the 2017/2024 COC comparison document to add any additional information. The RJC aims to release the COC self-assessment in English by the end of the month.

- **Compliance Assurance**

The RJC confirmed the Compliance Assurance team are focusing on transfer to Assurance Services International who are the oversight partner and engagement with UKAS. With respect to the EU/CMR recognition, the team are continuing to work with Kumi and members for the 3rd shadow audit.

In order to simplify understanding on the new timelines for certification and audit activities, the Compliance Assurance team confirmed the release of the Mandatory audit Navigator tool for members.

- **Supplementary Guidance for Diamond Traceability**

Effie Marinos, Special Advisor for technical standards confirmed that the RJC is creating supplementary guidance for members making provenance claims on the traceability of diamonds. Completion is aimed for year-end. This initiative arose from the Diamond Traceability Strategic Taskforce group. The aim of the guidance is to be global and inclusive, and to help companies avoid undergoing multiple audits by ensuring that their provenance claims have the appropriate controls in place to be auditable. Members can continue to make separate claims around the origin of the materials as per the COP, for example based on written warranties, but this guidance would apply where the claim relates to a traceability system. In the development of the guidance, other traceability systems have been considered, including those from Europe and the United States (listed in the section 5 of the guidance). Once approved by the Standards Committee it would be recommended for approval to the ExCo and then to the Board.

Following the guidance, a supporting toolkit is intended for release in early 2026. This would be subject to review by a working group, which should include some Strategic Taskforce (STF) members as well as a broader audience to ensure its global acceptability. The purpose of the toolkit is to provide guidance to members and auditors on implementation traceability provenance claims and verification methods.

Leo Daguet, on behalf of the Strategic Taskforce, confirmed the guidance will be high-level and foundational, with a separate checklist created by a group of brands and the BJOP referenced. He thanked the Standards Committee for their support and future input

Following a member query, it was confirmed by the RJC that the document is intended to support all types of claims in traceability, including environmental and social. Following a question, confirmed that other audits, including the DSRSP and the De Beers Diamond Pipeline Specification have been reviewed, and that the guidance is unlikely to conflict with other systems as it is designed to be inclusive. The RJC has requested feedback on the top-level requirements of the guidance, with responses requested by the 24th September. They also asked volunteers for the eventual working group to review the toolkit.

- **AOB and closing**

Dates for upcoming Strategic Taskforce meetings were confirmed, along with remaining 2025 Standards Committee meetings. In preparation for the in-person meeting in December, a questionnaire will be sent to the committee for the end of the week. The agenda for the next meeting includes updates from the impacts team on performance report data.

A question was raised on the coloured gemstone work group and whether this will have Artisanal Small-Scale mining (ASM) representation. The RJC confirmed that there are plans to create a small working group of the Standards Committee members to support in the coloured gemstone working group and formulate representation for ASM. A discussion was held surrounding topics for the ASM working group, with the RJC confirming that this will be workshopped in the face-to-face meeting in December.

Following a query from a member regarding the reformation process, the RJC confirmed that they will notify the Standards Committee of the new members following approval of appointment of the board. The RJC confirmed new members have been mapped against eligibility criteria, including adherence to the Terms of Reference and expertise.

The meeting was closed with thanks from Purvi Shah, Industry Co-Chair, and the committee was reminded of their actions to feedback on the Diamond Traceability guidance by Wednesday 24th September and to complete the pre-meeting questionnaire within the timelines.