

Standards Committee Meeting

19th March 2025

Summary notes

Standards Committee Participants: Noora Jamsheer, Laurent Massi, Joelle Ponelle, Jennifer Hillard, Marie-Charlotte Druetne Chancogne, Silvia Bezzone, Monica Barcellos Harris, Marcin Piersiak, Alexander Gul, Maggie Gabos, Charlene Nemson, Renata Lawton-Misra, Purvi Shah, Didier Backaert, Kimberley Wenzel, Sara Yood.

Guests of the committee: Kimberley Wenzel, Marco Quadri.

Apologies: Ainsley Butler, Philippe Telouk, Robin Kolvenbach, Ilan Keplan, Trisevgeni Stavropoulos, Tehmasp Printer, Salah Hussein, Gavin Hilson, Eduard Stefanescu.

RJC Management Team: John Hall, Melanie Grant, Suzanne Brooks, Effie Marinos, Caroline Watson, Charlotte Stanbridge, Jasmeet Kaur Baggha

Materials circulated in advance of call:

- Meeting presentation slides.
- Standards Committee Minutes for November, December, January and February meetings.

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 for the meeting. Participation was noted by the RJC Senior Standards Manager.

The previous meeting did not record a non-industry approval for minutes of November, December or January. These were confirmed via email, with Jenny Hillard approving November, Monica Barcellos Harris approving December, and Marcin Piersiak approving January. The February meeting minutes were approved by Joelle Ponelle and Jenny Hillard.

- **Executive update**

John Hall gave an introduction and a brief update on his recent trip to New York and the week of industry events and meetings with key RJC stakeholders.

- **Standards committee updates**

The team is planning for the committee restructure at the end of the year, when several committee terms come to an end. 12 members are leaving end 2025, 7 whose terms have been extended since 2023 and the rest whose terms are coming to the end of their second term. An outline of the plan was given, including the mapping exercise to identify gaps, following the governance handbook process. Recommendations are welcome from the Committee, Board and RJC management team, with all appointees going through the Board and a selection process. External recruitment may also be included. The Terms of Reference will also be reviewed and updated as necessary. A plan was shared on the page with a timeline breakdown.

A question was asked about voting rights during the transition period, and it was clarified that during the transition period, during which time the new committee members will join meetings, voting rights remain with the existing committee members until the end of their term.

- **Standards updates**

The timeline and steps for translations was shared. The team are identifying an external agency to do the translations. The plan is to use the same agency for all the translations. It was asked if version numbering will be added to updated versions of the standards and guidance, and it was confirmed that it will. The Committee members reiterated their support for helping with the translation review. It was confirmed that AI is not used in the translation.

The Committee was reminded a breakdown of the standards changes are available on the website. Following some updates, discussed with the Committee, new versions of the guidance documents are going to be released on the website. The team have held several training sessions with members, which saw good engagement. The 2024 COP and COC self-assessment documents are ongoing. A more detailed breakdown of the roadshow plan was given, with key regions identified.

The LGMS guidance is now in final stages before design and will be shared with the Committee after the call to provide input by 31st March. The same has been asked of the LGMS Taskforce. Provisions 7 and 28 will be shared later as these are still being developed. Once the guidance is complete, auditor training and member education will begin. It was reminded that 3 LGM producer forum seats will be available at the 2025 AGM. It was asked if further conversations will be possible on the definition of 'embellishment' and 'functional component'. It was noted that this is possible, but it depends what feedback is received from the Committee and whether further discussion is needed.

- **AOB**

The EU Commission is looking to publish more information regarding the EU Conflict Mineral Regulation alignment processes and where schemes are at in the process. They have asked for feedback from stakeholders on the disclosed information, concerns about confidentiality, as well as information about the level of alignment. At this point, no one else has been recognised against the regulation. A Committee member noted that Kumi is making a guidance document which may be useful. It was asked if since the shadow audits are done on refiners, if the recognition only covers refiners, and whether other companies will be able to provide RJC certification as evidence for compliance. It was noted that refiners are the critical control point, and the focus of the Commission will likely be on the refiner point, if companies source from the refiners this should show compliance. It remains at the EU Commission discretion to audit companies' compliance with the regulation. It was noted that the question will need to be clarified by reaching out to the Commission; a committee member suggested reaching out to local authorities, as in Germany the national authorities are pushing for individual importers to still be responsible even if part of a scheme.

An update was given on the **RJCs Climate research project**. The Impacts team will join one of the future meetings once the projects is further down the line and more can be shared. A survey had also been shared by the RJC this week, and the Committee members were asked to complete it if they had time.

The RJC has not yet heard back from the OECD about partner sessions. However, the RJC will be attending the event, including the Standards team, Assurance and an Executive representative. The RJC will also be present at JCK and business development representatives are present at most trade events. The Committee were also invited to the 20th anniversary event in London in May. The next meeting is on the 16th April. The meeting on the 21st of May we have a clash, so this will be changed to the 14th May.

A Committee member asked if the combined expiry date for certificates (in the certification handbook) meant joint audits? It was noted this is not about combining audits but more about not allowing extensions to certificates as this is no longer up to the RJC. It was confirmed that we would reach out to the Assurance team for further input. It was noted that the updated slides will be shared with the Committee. The Impacts Senior Manager joined and gave a brief additional summary of the Climate Research

The meeting ended.

Next meeting date: Wednesday 16 April 2025.