

RJC Standards Committee meeting

Date: 17th March 2026

Standards Committee present at the meeting:

Industry Attendees	Non-Industry Attendees	Guest of Committee Attendees
Eduard Stefanescu (Co-Chair) Alexander Gul Ben Ronca Charlene Nemson Donald Bray Marie-Charlotte Melanie Mater Noora Jamsheer Philippe Telouk Silvia Bezzone	Sara Yood (Co-Chair) Abbi Buxton Chris Vandome Maggie Gabos Renata Lawton Misra	Francesco Giunta Kim Wenzel Laure Williams Kesah Trowell

RJC Management Team:

- Purvi Shah, John Hall, Suzanne Brooks, Effie Marinos, Caroline Watson, Megan Gannon

Apologies:

- Raluca Angel, Antonino Serra Cambaceres, Marcin Piersiak, Gavin Hilson, Marco Quadri, Monica Barcellos Harris, Laurent Massi

RJC Executive Director and Welcome

- Welcome was provided from Purvi Shah, Executive Director, providing highlights into three critical areas of focus while stepping into the new role. These included understanding internal RJC teams and how they operate, spending time with members and understanding their needs, and horizon scanning and what is expected within the sector. It was highlighted that digitisation will be a key priority for the RJC.

Introductions and Welcome:

- Meeting opened by Suzanne Brooks, and attendance was noted for those present online.
- It was noted that the Annual General Meeting is taking place on the 27th May, with the nomination process underway.

Co-Chair Update and Committee Matters:

- Welcome provided by Sara Yood, Non-Industry Co-Chair, and Eduard Stefanescu, Industry Co-Chair. Eduard Stefanescu provided an insight into the EU CMR regulation and recent updates on what this could mean in Germany, with a discussion being held around this.
- Minutes from January meeting were presented and approved by Industry member Alexander Gul, and Non-Industry member Maggie Gabos.
- The Standards Committee were reminded that some members' terms are coming to an end at the end of this year, and those who are, will be contacted directly. An update was provided that Valerie Michel has left the Standards Committee due to stepping down from her role at Rosy Blue.

It was confirmed that the seat for Rosy Blue will be filled by a nominated replacement with the Standards Committee remaining informed.

Diamond Traceability Toolkit:

- Thanks were given to those who volunteered for the Diamond Traceability sub-committee and attended the meeting on the 9th March. An overview was provided to the Standards Committee of the discussions held in the sub-committee meeting, consisting of the outline of the toolkit and relevant comments. The Standards Committee were reminded that these will require approval to move the toolkit to the next stage.
- Discussions were held around the existing supplementary guidance on Diamond Traceability claims. Agreement was given in principle to extend the scope of this guidance, to apply to the LGMS standard as well as the COP. A new draft of the guidance is aimed to be produced prior to the next board meeting on the 21st May, and will be circulated to the Standards Committee prior to the next meeting in April.
- The Standards Committee were asked to review the Diamond Traceability toolkit outline, and provide any feedback, including any tools or materials to share, and any external input that would be beneficial. A discussion was held around this.

Coloured Gemstones:

- Updates of the workplan on coloured gemstones was provided, including that consolidation of past work is underway. Following internal discussions within the RJC, and with the Strategic Task-Force, the Standards Committee were informed that rather than focusing on the expansion of coloured gemstones, there will now be a focus on how areas of transparency and due diligence can be improved within the existing scope and supply chain.
- The Standards Committee were advised that it has been agreed in principle that a coloured gemstones Task-Force will be created, as opposed to a sub-committee. The Task-Force will have a separate Terms of Reference, membership criteria, and will need approval from the board. Further updates are to be provided to the Standards Committee at the next meeting.
- A member raised a query as to why the project would focus on coloured gemstones and not diamonds. The RJC confirmed that there is existing traceability and ability to go through the different tiers with diamonds. Whereas coloured gemstone supply chains, particularly sapphires have complicated supply chains, which can add barriers for smaller members on implementing due diligence requirements. For this reason, enhanced support and work will be targeted to coloured gemstones in the first instance.

Expansion of COC Mined Materials:

- An overview was provided regarding the expansion of eligible Chain Of Custody (COC) mined material workplan. The RJC confirmed that this is not part of the Artisanal and Small-scale mining workstream. This workplan will include a benchmark of other standards against the RJC Code Of Practice (COP), which will be used to determine what other due diligence processes are required to accept material as eligible for COC. Current initiatives planned for benchmarking were provided to the Standards Committee and would welcome other suggestions.
- The RJC confirmed that a sub-committee will be set up for this workstream, with a call for more members to volunteer, particularly from the refiner forum.

Artisanal and Small-Scale mining:

- The Standards Committee were told that the direction of this project is still being discussed internally, and which strategic direction needs to be taken. A query was raised on whether there will still be a sub-committee for this workstream. It was confirmed this is to be determined following further internal discussions.

Programme updates and AOB:

- An overview was provided of various implementation workstreams, including the RJC's ISEAL alignment, and cross-department collaborations. The SCO were informed that work has started on the Annual Progress Report. The RJC confirmed following feedback received from the December meeting, ESG & Regulation mapping is being reviewed as an internal project, in collaboration with the impacts team.
- Thanks were given to the Standards Committee for their feedback on the Theory of Change and it was confirmed that this is now with the impacts team for review.
- The RJC informed the Standards Committee they will be attending an event in Paris on the 26th March hosted by BJOP. Building on the Roadshow format, the team will also be hosting member 1.1 meetings around this. SCO were asked to reach out if they would like to meet in person over this time.
- Other external working groups that the RJC are engaging with were notified to the Standards Committee. This included the Gold Principles Working Group.
- A member queried alignment to other standards, and recognition, to which the RJC confirmed that alignment of individual principles and provisions are being reviewed, with the purpose of moving toolkits and communications forwards.

Assurance Information Update – Critical Breaches:

- The Standards Committee were provided an update regarding the amendment to the Critical Breach definition which took effect on the 5th March. The critical breach definition has now been broadened to include critical findings. The new definition
- requires one or more of certain criteria to be true and would mostly apply to defined negative impacts in relation to; Labour/Social conditions/Health & Safety; Environment; Legislation, Management/Grievance systems, Responsible Supply Chains, Human Rights, Due Diligence, Mining. Examples of new critical breaches, and Major Nonconformity's were provided. The list of the COP/LGMS "critical provisions" was retired, aligning with the COC approach.
- A new Appendix 2 on Critical Breaches has been added to the Certification Process Requirements and Member Certification Handbook.
- Following a member query, the RJC confirms that this change was instigated by RJC discussions with audit firms, and their reluctance to raise critical non-conformances with smaller members where this was triggered purely by missing documentation.
- The RJC confirmed that this can apply to a mid-term surveillance, not just a recertification. An update regarding the critical breach definition will be circulated in the March newsletter and has been rolled out with the Certification Bodies.

Meeting closed by Sara Yood Non-Industry Co-Chair, with thanks given to the Standards Committee.

