

6 Harmonise efforts for responsible business practices

Find out: Which external frameworks are deemed equivalent to RJC standards.

6.1 RECOGNISED FRAMEWORKS

The RJC’s standards are designed to recognise and align with other frameworks for responsible business practices wherever possible. Some external standards and initiatives are recognised by the RJC as equivalent to one or more COP or CoC Standard provisions. In these cases, members and auditors can use external certification to assume conformance without additional self-assessment or review, unless otherwise specified in Table 2, and where:

- The audit was conducted within the previous 12 months;
- The external certification scope applies to the member’s RJC certification scope; and
- There are no open major or critical non-conformities (or equivalent as identified in Tables 4a and 4b below) and corrective action plans are in place to close any minor non-conformities within the next 12 months.

Auditors do, however, still have the right to further investigate these provisions during an on-site visit if they deem it necessary.

Tables 4a and 4b summarise recognised frameworks for the COP and CoC Standard and outline the implications for self-assessment or audit.

Table 4a. Recognised frameworks for the COP

EXTERNAL STANDARD OR INITIATIVE	IMPLICATIONS FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT OR AUDIT IF EXTERNALLY CERTIFIED
<p>Social Accountability International SA8000® Standard</p> <p>SA8000:2014 http://sa-intl.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=1689</p>	<p>The business or facility does not have to be audited against the following COP provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General employment terms: 15.1, 15.2 • Working hours: 16.1, 16.2a–c, 16.3a–b, 16.5 • Remuneration: 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8 • Harassment, discipline, grievance procedures and non-retaliation: 18.1, 18.3, 18.4a–c, 18.5 • Child labour: 19.1a, 19.2, 19.3 • Forced labour: 20.1, 20.2a–e, 20.3 • Freedom of association and collective bargaining: 21.1, 21.2, 21.3 • Non-discrimination: 22.1 • Health and safety: 23.1, 23.2, 23.3, 23.4, 23.5, 23.6, 23.7, 23.9
<p>International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Environmental management systems standard</p> <p>ISO 14001:2015 www.iso.org/standard/60857.html</p>	<p>The business or facility does not have to be audited against the following COP provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental management: 24.1, 24.2 <p>Some ISO 14001 standards are less specific than the equivalent COP provisions. The auditor must assess the scope of the business’s ISO 14001 certification and determine whether the following COP provisions were appropriately verified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazardous substances: 25.3 • Wastes and emissions: 26.1, 26.2a • Use of natural resources: 27.1, 27.2, 27.3, 27.4 • Biodiversity: 38.2a, 38.2c <p>If they were appropriately verified during the ISO audit, they do not have to be audited again; if not, they must be fully verified during the RJC audit.</p>

EXTERNAL STANDARD OR INITIATIVE	IMPLICATIONS FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT OR AUDIT IF EXTERNALLY CERTIFIED
<p>The British Standards Institution (BSI) Occupational health and safety standard</p> <p>OHSAS 18001:2007 www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/ohsas-18001-occupational-health-and-safety/</p>	<p>The business or facility does not have to be audited against the following COP provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety: 23.1, 23.3, 23.4, 23.5, 23.8, 23.9 <p>This standard has been replaced by ISO 45001. All organisations certified to OHSAS 18001 must transition by March 2021.</p>
<p>ISO Occupational health and safety management systems standard</p> <p>ISO 45001:2018 www.iso.org/standard/63787.html</p>	<p>The business or facility does not have to be audited against the following COP provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety: 23.1, 23.2g-h, 23.3, 23.4, 23.5, 23.6, 23.8, 23.9 • Hazardous substances: 25.3 • Mercury: 41.2b <p>Some ISO 45001 standards are less specific than equivalent COP provisions. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency response COP provision 37.1 requires emergency response plans to be based on UN Environment’s Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level for Mining, which is not required by ISO 45001. <p>The auditor must assess the scope of the business’s ISO 45001 certification and determine whether this COP provision was appropriately verified during the ISO audit. If it was, it does not need to be audited again; if not, it must be fully verified during the RJC audit.</p>
<p>London Bullion Market Association (LBMA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Delivery list • LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance <p>www.lbma.org.uk/responsible-sourcing-guidance</p>	<p>The business or facility does not have to be audited against the following COP provisions for gold:</p> <p>Due diligence for responsible sourcing from conflict-affected and high-risk areas: 7.1a, 7.2, 7.3a</p> <p>When verifying open non-conformances, LBMA’s low risk grading can be treated as a minor non-conformance. For medium risk, high risk and zero tolerance these are to be treated as major non-conformances.</p>
<p>Responsible Minerals Assurance Process (RMAP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformant smelters and refiners list • Gold Refiner Standard <p>www.responsiblemineralsinitiative.org/conformant-smelter-refiner-lists/</p>	<p>The business or facility does not have to be audited against the following COP provisions for gold:</p> <p>Due diligence for responsible sourcing from conflict-affected and high-risk areas: 7.1a, 7.2, 7.3a</p> <p>When verifying an open RMI non-conformant audit outcome, auditors must take into consideration whether the non-conformance is equivalent to an RJC minor or major non-conformance in order to determine their actions in verifying the cross recognition.</p>
<p>Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Delivery list • Rules for Risk Based Due Diligence in the Gold and Precious Metals Supply Chain <p>www.dmcc.ae/gateway-to-trade/commodities/gold/responsible-sourcing</p>	<p>The business or facility does not have to be audited against the following COP provisions for gold:</p> <p>Due diligence for responsible sourcing from conflict-affected and high-risk areas: 7.1a, 7.2, 7.3a</p> <p>When verifying open non-conformances, DMCC’s low and medium risk deviations can be treated as minor non-conformances. For high risk deviations these are to be treated as major non-conformances.</p>

Table 4b. Recognised frameworks for the CoC Standard

EXTERNAL STANDARD OR INITIATIVE	IMPLICATIONS FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT OR AUDIT IF EXTERNALLY CERTIFIED
<p>London Bullion Market Association (LBMA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Delivery list • LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance <p>www.lbma.org.uk/responsible-sourcing-guidance</p>	<p>Gold refiners do not have to be audited against the following CoC Standard provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due diligence: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 <p>When verifying open non-conformances, LBMA’s low risk grading can be treated as a minor non-conformance. For medium risk, high risk and zero tolerance these are to be treated as major non-conformances.</p>
<p>Responsible Minerals Assurance Process (RMAP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformant smelters and refiners list • Gold Refiner Standard <p>www.responsiblemineralsinitiative.org/conformant-smelter-refiner-lists/</p>	<p>Gold refiners do not have to be audited against the following CoC Standard provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due diligence: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 <p>When verifying an open RMI non-conformant audit outcome, auditors must take into consideration whether the non-conformance is equivalent to an RJC minor or major non-conformance in order to determine their actions in verifying the cross recognition.</p> <p>Note that this recognition is based on the Responsible Minerals Initiative 2017 Gold Refiner Standard, which was effective from 1 June 2018.</p>
<p>Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Delivery list • Rules for Risk Based Due Diligence in the Gold and Precious Metals Supply Chain <p>www.dmcc.ae/gateway-to-trade/commodities/gold/responsible-sourcing</p>	<p>Gold refiners do not have to be audited against the following CoC Standard provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due diligence: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 <p>When verifying open non-conformances, DMCC’s low and medium risk deviations can be treated as minor non-conformances. For high risk deviations these are to be treated as major non-conformances.</p>
<p>Fairtrade Standard for Gold and Associated Precious Metals for Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining</p> <p>www.fairtrade.org.uk/Farmers-and-Workers/Gold</p> <p>Fairmined Standard for Gold from Artisanal and Small-scale Mining, including associated precious metals</p> <p>www.fairmined.org/the-fairmined-standard</p>	<p>Material from the mines certified to these standards can be traded under the CoC Standard in combination with other CoC materials.</p>
<p>International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) sustainable development framework (mines that have been included in assurance site sampling within the past three years)</p> <p>www.icmm.com</p> <p>The Mining Association of Canada’s Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) programme (mines with a verification Level A or higher across all indicators)</p> <p>http://mining.ca/towards-sustainable-mining</p>	<p>Material from mines verified or assured to these schemes is subject to a validation process before it can be traded in combination with other CoC materials (see eligible mined material CoC Standard provision 6.2).</p>

We will publish news of any further initiatives or standards that the RJC officially recognises as equivalent on our website at www.responsiblejewellery.com/harmonisation. If you have a question about an initiative not listed here, please contact us at accreditation@responsiblejewellery.com.

Further initiatives & standards cross recognised as equivalent

EXTERNAL STANDARD OR INITIATIVE	IMPLICATIONS FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT OR AUDIT IF EXERTNALLY CERTIFIED
<p>ICMM Mining Principles – Performance Expectations February 2020</p> <p>https://www.icmm.com/website/publications/pdfs/mining-principles/mining-principles.pdf</p>	<p>The business or facility does not have to be audited against the following COP provisions by an RJC auditor*:</p> <p>General requirements: 1, 2, 3</p> <p>Responsible supply chains and human rights: 5, 6, 7.1-2, 10, 11.1-2, 12, 13.2-3</p> <p>Labour rights and working rights: 17.1-2 & 8, 18.1, 19.1.-2, 20.1, 20.3, 21, 22.</p> <p>Health, Safety and Environment: 23.1, 23.3-9, 24, 25.1 26.1, 27.1-2 & 4.</p> <p>Gold, silver, PGM, Diamond, Coloured Gemstone products: N/A</p> <p>Responsible Mining: 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38.1-2 & 4, 39.1-2 & 4, 41, 42</p>

*The auditor must be approved to conduct both ICMM and RJC audits (please refer to ICMM website for auditor criteria).

EXTERNAL STANDARD OR INITIATIVE	IMPLICATIONS FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT OR AUDIT IF EXERTNALLY CERTIFIED
<p>Mining Association of Canada – Towards Sustainable Mining Guiding Principles</p> <p>https://mining.ca/towards-sustainable-mining/tsm-guiding-principles/</p>	<p>The business or facility does not have to be audited against the following COP provisions by an RJC auditor**:</p> <p>General requirements: N/A</p> <p>Responsible supply chains and human rights: 10, 13</p> <p>Labour rights and working rights: 19.1, 20.1, 20.3.</p> <p>Health, Safety and Environment: 23.1, 23.6-8, 24, 25.1 26.1, 27.1-2 & 4.</p> <p>Gold, silver, PGM, Diamond, Coloured Gemstone products: N/A</p> <p>Responsible Mining: 31.2f, 32.1, 32.2 a, c-d, 32.3, 33.1-2, 34, 38.1-2, 38.3a, 39.1-2.</p>

**The auditor must be approved to conduct both MAC-TSM and RJC audits.

The audit firms must be listed on both the RJC's Approved audit firms list [here](#), and on MAC's List of Verification Service Providers (VSP) (available on the MAC website).