



Standards Committee Meeting

7 April 2020

Summary notes

Standards Committee participants: Jennifer Hillard, Stephane F, Karla, Didier Backaert, Purvi Shah (Co-chair), Cecilia Gardner, Joelle Ponelle, Marianna Smirnova, Sara Yood, Natalia Zhulina, Yves Burtran, Kesha Frank.

Apologies: Ainsley Butler

RJC Management Team: Peter Dawkins (Standards Manager), Nawal Ait-Hocine (RJC consultant)

Materials circulated in advance of call: Presentation slides, minutes from previous meeting

1. Introduction

Co-chair Purvi Shah reminded the committee of the RJC anti-trust policy and welcomed participants to the meeting. The RJC Standards Manager carried out a roll call and Co-chair Purvi Shah summarised the agenda for the meeting. Meeting minutes from the previous Standards Committee teleconference on 19 February 2020 were approved by Purvi Shah and Yves Burtran.

2. COVID-19 –Impact to RJC standards projects for the year.

RJC Standards Manager provided an update to the committee on the impact to RJC standards projects for the remainder of 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. All existing projects are still to continue, although most with an affected timeframes and resources available to them. Notable projects are the due-diligence toolkit and the ability to conduct learning audits with members as most RJC audits are now postponed. This situation is being closely monitored and is ongoing, updates will be provided to the committee as and when is necessary.

3. EU application as recognised scheme –RJC update

The RJC's eligibility application to become a recognised scheme under upcoming EU legislation on the importing of 3TGs has been successful and a full update on the process so far and next steps was provided by RJC Standards Manager. The RJC application for eligibility was approved by the EU Commission on 30 March 2020. RJC now await confirmation from the EU Commission and their consulting services on the next phases of the application, which will be a full application via desktop review of RJC standards and systems, as well as stakeholder interviews and shadow audits.

4. RCOI –Refiner data collection –RJC update

The RJC Standards Manager provided an update on the memo, annual data submission form and data sharing agreement has been sent to all RJC refiners who are applicable to this requirement. Responses received so far have been shared with RMI, as required by our agreement. Data requested is a declaration of mined gold country of origin. Data will be validated by auditors during scheduled RJC audits. Several refiners are currently delayed in responding due to closure from COVID-19 restrictions.

5. ISEAL Standards Code Compliance Pt.2 –RJC update

RJCs compliance with ISEAL standard code has been updated recently after an independent evaluation was conducted. The RJC Standards Manager provided an update on the RJC's response and that a corrective action plan has been submitted to ISEAL, RJC are awaiting a response from the ISEAL secretariat. Overall, there were 5 minor non-conformances mostly related to administrative requirements of the ISEAL standards code. Once ISEAL has approved the RJC corrective action plan RJC has 12 months to close all minor non-conformances but intends to rectify these as soon as possible.

6. Standards Committee composition

The RJC Standards Manager and Consultant provided an update to the committee regarding the current composition of the committee, there are 6 vacant spaces (3 industry, 3 non-industry). The committee were informed on the outcome of a gap analysis to identify outstanding skills and expertise within the committee and how the applicants will be filtered against these skills and expertise. Committee members asked to be informed what their term dates were, RJC will provide this at the next committee meeting.

7. AOB

The RJC Standards Manager and Consultant provided an update to the committee on the status of the coloured stones taskforce, the laboratory taskforce and due-diligence pilot project. The coloured stone and laboratory taskforce groups have had the terms for reference drafted and the process of selecting participants has begun. The due-diligence pilot project has undergone round two of its consultation and has been updated accordingly. The draft will be shared with the committee before the next meeting as they will need to be asked to approve the toolkit for the next committee meeting on 8 June 2020. The committee members were reminded of the next meetings for 2020, 8 June, 14 September and 10 November.