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If you should require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be please to help you.

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The Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (“IRMA”) is an independent non-profit organization founded in 2006 by a diverse coalition, including non-governmental organizations, businesses purchasing minerals and metals, affected communities, mining companies, and labor unions. IRMA's mission is to improve the environmental and social performance of mining operations by developing best practice standards and implementing a system for independent verification.

In addition to IRMA-responsible mining (verification of the mines themselves), they have developed a standard and system in response to demands from end consumers for independently verified socially and environmentally responsible mined materials, to track and ensure the origin and impacts of mined materials purchased and sold in the marketplace. The IRMA Chain of Custody Standard for Responsibly Mined Materials (“IRMA CoC Standard”) sets out specific requirements for tracking material from verified IRMA-audited mines and mineral processors to market, enabling Entities operating within the supply chain and end users to make credible claims about IRMA-audited material. This standard is designed to be compatible with other standard programs that ensure responsible sourcing of mined materials downstream of the mine (e.g., ResponsibleSteel, Responsible Jewellery Council). In addition, this Standard has been developed to work in concert with existing and emerging traceability services and technologies (e.g., block chain, mineral ID scanning, testing, etc.). The IRMA CoC Standard is for use by Entities processing, buying, or using IRMA audited materials along the supply chain.

1. CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

1.1. Initial Compliance Audit

TÜV NORD CERT GmbH (“Certification Body”) conducts an independent third-party audit of the Entity's management systems and relevant documentation and records to assess its conformance with the IRMA Chain of Custody Standard Conformance Requirements. During the audit, non-conformities (“NCs”) may be identified, which can be either major or minor. If major non-conformities are found, the entity is not eligible for IRMA Chain of Custody Compliance (IRMA CoC Compliance”) and must implement corrective actions before IRMA CoC Compliance is awarded.

1.2. CoC Compliance

Once the Certification Body is satisfied that the entity has met the compliance requirements, including resolving all major NCs, the entity is awarded IRMA CoC Compliance. The entity is then eligible to make IRMA claims regarding its verified status and the eligible material it sells. The Compliance is valid for three years, provided annual surveillance audits are conducted.

1.3. Surveillance Audits

Annual surveillance audits are required to ensure the entity's ongoing conformance with the IRMA CoC Standard. Minor NCs identified during the previous (initial) audit must be effectively resolved by the time of the surveillance audit. Minor NCs that are not effectively resolved are elevated to major NCs. All major NCs identified during surveillance audits must be resolved within three months of the audit date to avoid suspension.

1.4. Compliance Renewal

IRMA CoC Compliance is valid for three years, subject to successful completion of annual surveillance audits. The entity must undergo a re-verification assessment before the compliance expires to continue making IRMA claims. A CoC-compliant entity is entitled to promote its compliance status to other parties and make claims according to the IRMA CoC Claims Procedure and communication guidelines during the validity period of the compliance.

2. CERTIFICATION OF COMPANIES WITH MULTIPLE LOCATIONS (MULTI-SITE)

The audits cover all processes and selected sites that handle the product. If an annual assessment of all sites is not feasible, the Certification Body can prioritize sites based on a documented risk assessment.

3. MANAGEMENT OF NON-CONFORMITIES

The Certification Body can identify NCs and/or requests for corrective actions. The entity must establish and implement documented procedures for handling non-conformities, including those related to supplied materials and products associated with the entity's supply chain. Relevant and effective corrective actions must be taken within two weeks. These non-conformities and the resulting actions must be documented. When the entity becomes aware of non-conformities, it must promptly and proactively inform the supply chain organizer and its relevant partners within the supply chain.