



**ISO/TMB "Technical Management Board"**  
Secretariat: **ISO**  
Secretary: **Rossi Marco Mr**



## **IWA - Recycled Gold and Scheme**

<b>Document type</b>	<b>Related content</b>	<b>Document date</b>	<b>Expected action</b>
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## PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AGREEMENT

A proposal for an International Workshop Agreement (IWA) shall be submitted to the secretariat of the Technical Management Board at ISO/CS ([tmb@iso.org](mailto:tmb@iso.org)). Proposals will be referred to the ISO Technical Management Board for approval (4-week ballot).

Once the proposal for the IWA is approved by the TMB, the proposer will be requested to prepare an announcement/ invitation to the workshop, which will be circulated to the ISO members by ISO/CS. Please note that the announcement must be made at least 90 days in advance of the agreed date to allow potential attendees adequate time to plan on attending the workshop (Annex SI.3).

See the [ISO Supplement Annex SI](#) for full details of the Procedure for the development of IWAs.

### Proposer

*A proposal to hold an ISO workshop for the purpose of developing one or more IWAs on a particular subject may come from any source, including ISO member bodies, liaison organizations, corporate bodies etc. An organization that is not an ISO member body or liaison organization, or is not international in scope, shall inform the ISO member body in its country of its intent to submit such a proposal.*

Swiss Association for Standardization (SNV)  
Sulzerallee 70  
Postfach  
CH-8404 Winterthur  
Switzerland

Federation of the Swiss watch industry FH  
Rue d'Argent 6  
2502 Biel/Bienne  
Switzerland

### Contact details of proposer

**Name:** Mr. Patrick Lötscher (FH)                      Mr Marcel Knecht (SNV)

**Email:** [patrick.loetscher@fhs.swiss](mailto:patrick.loetscher@fhs.swiss)                      [marcel.knecht@snv.ch](mailto:marcel.knecht@snv.ch)

### Title of the proposed IWA

Recycled Gold with Requirements for precious metals management systems & certification schemes

## **Purpose and justification**

Over the last couple of years, companies manufacturing or using products containing precious metals have become more aware of the importance of a responsible sourcing. The goal of this IWA is to provide the market with an independent, widely acceptable standard defining which practices are acceptable when sourcing, refining and using recycled gold, as well as to define requirements for precious metals management systems and certification schemes, allowing gold users to get certified by third-party auditors.

Refiners are the companies sourcing precious metals from all existing sources, including from primary sources (mines) and secondary sources (recycled metals). They refine (“purify”) those precious metals in a variety of shape (high purity, alloys, semi-finished and finished products) to a large range of industries including jewellery, watch makers, electronic industry and banks.

Refiners are already relying on several private standards to source mining and recycling materials. There are many standards and good practices rules focusing on mined gold (including World Gold Council rules, Fairmined and Fairtrade standards, Swiss Better Gold initiative...) but essentially one standard focusing on recycled gold (RJC-CoC - Responsibly Jewellery Council Chain of Custody). All those standards have been created by organisations which reserve certification toward those standards for their members only.

Several key players (including refiners, jewellery, watch industries as well as international associations) have inquired on the possibility to create a new and independent ISO deliverable on recycled gold. This is driven essentially by a market which wishes to act more responsibly as end-customers have put under scrutiny the environmental and social impacts of metals, including precious metals. Such deliverable would allow to provide clear definition to the market (“What is recycled gold?”), to define which good practices shall be applied by all refiners in terms of segregation and traceability, and to define guidelines to calculate the carbon footprint of recycled gold.

Any standard dealing with the sourcing of precious metal shall albeit to the Five-Step Due Diligence Framework from OECD. This is mandatory to ensure that high-quality audits are performed on every certified participant. For this reason, the intend is to create a conformity assessment scheme. Following discussions with ISO/CASCO, the final standard will have several parts:

- Part 1: Requirements for precious metals management systems
- Part 2: Requirements for certification schemes
- Part 3: Requirements for recycled gold performance

With such structure, it is possible to ensure that the same clear rules are applied by the whole industry for the sourcing of precious metals in general and specifically of recycled gold, and that the role of third-party auditors is well-defined.

**Does the proposed IWA relate to or impact on any existing work in ISO committees?**

Yes       No

**Please list any relevant documents and/or ISO committees**

ISO/TC 174 “Jewellery and Precious Metals”

Other relevant documents are:

- OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (Third Edition)  
<https://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/mne/OECD-Due-Diligence-Guidance-Minerals-Edition3.pdf>
- LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance  
<https://www.lbma.org.uk/publications/responsible-gold-guidance-v9>

**Relevant stakeholders (list of organizations that may be interested)**

Trade and Professional Organisations

- CIBJO
- Federation of the Swiss watch industry FH
- London Bullion Market Association (LBMA)
- World Gold Council (WGC)
- International Precious Metal Institute (IPMI)
- British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA)

Refiners

Collectors

Terminal market – including jewellery makers, watch makers, electronic industries...

Governmental

- UNIDO

Research:

- EMPA

Associations

- World resource forum (WRF)

Standardization:

- ISO/TC 174 – Jewellery and precious metals
- ISO/TC 262 – Risk management
- ISO/TC 323 – Circular economy
- ISO/CASCO – Conformity assessment

**Member body willing to act as secretariat**

SNV, operated by FH who is in Switzerland responsible for the watch industry sector.

**Number of meetings to be held (if more than one is envisaged) and proposed dates**

First meeting to be held hopefully mid-May, 3 months after approval of the project.  
Exact number of meetings to be determined later, but multiple meetings (at least 6) will be needed; most meeting are expected to be held virtually.

**Annexes are included with this proposal (give details)**

IWA Text (Recycled Gold and Scheme) input proposal