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Risk Readiness Assessment Voluntary Standard System (VSS) Equivalency Benchmark Results

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Overview of RRA Equivalency Benchmarking

In late 2023, the Copper Mark and the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI) revised their jointly developed Risk Readiness Assessment Criteria [Guide](#). The Risk Readiness Assessment (RRA 3.0) is a tool that serves as a common standard of reference for environmental, social and governance (ESG) due diligence in mineral supply chains. The RRA is the foundation of the Copper Mark Criteria for Responsible Production against which sites are independently assessed during the Copper Mark Assurance Process and is also a voluntary self-assessment and self-reporting tool for minerals and metals producers and processors globally, as well as pre-requisite for companies participating in the RMI's Responsible Minerals Assurance Process (RMAP).

Both the Copper Mark and the RMI recognize existing standards systems, reporting frameworks, and certifications to avoid redundancy and to promote the use of these initiatives. The Copper Mark and the RMI have developed a Voluntary Sustainability Standard (VSS) Equivalency Benchmark ([here](#)), that was last updated in December 2020. This benchmarking document replaces the previous VSS equivalency benchmark by comparing the most recent versions (as of March 2024) of international mineral standards in scope of this assessment against the RRA 3.0.

The Copper Mark / RMI have included the following standards and associated guidelines for benchmarking:

- Mining Association of Canada, Towards Sustainable Mining Program (TSM) – all protocols issued as of December 2023
- International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Mining Principles and Performance Expectations
- Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) Mining Standard, version 1
- ISO 14001:2015 Environmental management systems – requirements with guidance for use
- ISO 45001:2018 Occupational health and safety management systems – requirements with guidance for use
- ISO 24419-1:2023: Mine closure and reclamation – Managing mining legacies
- ISO 50001: Energy management systems - requirements with guidance for use
- International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability
- London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) Gold Guidance, Version 9; Silver Guidance, Version 2
- Code of Risk-mitigation for ASM engaging in Formal Trade (CRAFT) Code, version 2
- Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), Codes of Practice (2019)
- Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI), Performance Standard, Version 3

To determine equivalency across standards, several factors were considered:

- The stated objectives of a particular theme or requirement.
- The level of prescriptiveness of a requirement.
- The expected performance outcomes in terms of absolute results and timelines for achieving these results.

Definitions and source references used to characterize a requirement were included as a reference but were not used to establish alignment.

For the three equivalency categories, RMI’s Recognition Process, version 1.4 and the Copper Mark Recognition Process v. 3.1 were used as guidance. The following equivalency categories were used:

Equivalency Result	Definition
Not Equivalent	The scope and intent (and therefore the likely outcomes) of the requirement are not the same. Similarly, issues that would generally be expected to be considered within the scope of the VSS but which are not addressed.
Partially Equivalent	The VSS includes some, but not all requirements of the RRA criterion. This category will be used to describe instances where the RRA is more prescriptive, and the VSS may be missing one or components of the requirement, while still meeting the scope and intent of the criterion.

Equivalency Result	Definition
Equivalent	The scope and intent (and therefore likely outcomes) of the requirements are the same, even if there are minor differences in the details of the requirements and/or the language used.

The assessment of equivalency focused on the RRA as the benchmark so is one-directional. Where VSS exceed the requirements of the RRA criteria, this is not specified, although it is acknowledged that some VSS do exceed the RRA in certain areas.

The tables included in this document include an overall summary table and a summary table for each VSS, presented by RRA criteria with a summary statement of equivalency provided. Detailed assessment notes have been developed and each VSS owner was provided with opportunities to comment and contribute information to support the benchmarking to improve their accuracy. It is noted that neither ISO nor the IFC provided comments.

The Copper Mark and RMI acknowledge the efforts of ERM, who have acted independently to complete this assessment of equivalency and who retains the oversight of the process to maintain this independence.

Voluntary Standard System (VSS) Equivalency Benchmark Results (October 2024)

	TSM	ICMM	ISO 14001	ISO 45001	ISO 24419-1	ISO 50001	LBMA	RJC*	IRMA	IFC	ASI	CRAFT
RRA v.3 Criterion	Protocol versions as of December 31, 2023; Responsible Sourcing Alignment Supplement	Performance Expectations and Position Statements as of March 1, 2024	Environmental management systems — Requirements with guidance for use, 2015	Occupational health and safety management systems — Requirements with guidance for use, 2018	Mine closure and reclamation - Managing mining legacies - Part 1: Requirements and recommendations, 2023	Energy management systems — Requirements with guidance for use, 2018	LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance v9 LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance v2	RJC Code of Practices Standard, December 2019 RJC Code of Practices Guidance, June 2023	IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining (IRMA-STD-001), June 2018 IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining 1.0—Guidance Document, Ver 1.2 (June 2023)	IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability, January, 2012 Guidance Notes (Updated June 2021)	ASI Performance Standard, Version 3, May 2022 ASI Performance Standard – Guidance, Version 3, May 2022	CRAFT 2.0 Vol. 1, Vol. 2A, Vol. 3, Vol. 4 CRAFT Orientation Guide, October 05, 2020 Also, consideration of Ver. 2.1 of CRAFT Code
1. Management System	Not Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
2. Risk Assessment	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
3. Business Integrity	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Applicable	Equivalent	Equivalent
4. Revenue Transparency	Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent
5. Legal Compliance	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
6. Sustainability Reporting	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable
7. Grievance Mechanism	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent
8. Stakeholder Engagement	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
9. Mine Closure & Reclamation	Not Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable
10. Responsible Supply Chains	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
11. No Child Labor	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent

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12. No Forced Labor	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent
13. Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining	Not Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
14. Non-Discrimination and Harassment	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
15. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
16. Employment Terms	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Applicable
17. Occupational Health & Safety	Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
18. Emergency Preparedness	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Equivalent
19. Community Health & Safety	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
20. 20. Community Development	Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent
21. Artisanal & Small-Scale Mining	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Not Applicable	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
22. Security & Human Rights	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent

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23. Indigenous Peoples' Rights	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
24. Land Acquisition & Resettlement	Not Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Equivalent
25. Cultural Heritage	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Equivalent
26. Climate Action	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable
27. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Equivalent
28. Water Stewardship	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent
29. Waste Management	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
30. Circular Economy	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Applicable
31. Tailings Management	Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Partially Equivalent
32. Biodiversity and Productive Land	Partially Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Not Equivalent
33. Pollution	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent	Partially Equivalent	Not Equivalent

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* RJC will be publishing a new standard by end of 2024 and will undergo an updated RRA equivalency assessment in early 2025.