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Emirates Gold DMCC
To the attn. of Mr. Mohamed Shakarchi
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Geneva, 24 March 2021

Independent Reasonable Assurance Report on Emirates Gold DMCC's Refiner's Compliance Report

Introduction

We were engaged by Emirates Gold DMCC ("Emirates Gold") to perform a reasonable assurance engagement on Emirates Gold's Compliance Report dated 24 March 2021 for the Reporting Period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 (the "Refiner's Compliance Report").

Management's responsibilities

Emirates Gold has decided to implement the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance on a voluntary basis. The management of Emirates Gold is responsible for the preparation and public disclosure of the Refiner's Compliance Report in accordance with the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance, Version 8 dated December 2018 (the "LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance"). This responsibility includes conformance with Steps 1 to 5 of the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance. The criteria identified by the management as relevant for demonstrating compliance with the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance are the activities described within the Refiner's Compliance Report.

Our responsibility

Our responsibility is to carry out a reasonable assurance engagement in order to express a conclusion based on the work performed. We conducted our assurance engagement in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements ISAE 3000 Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and the guidance set out in the LBMA Responsible Sourcing Programme - Third Party Audit Guidance for ISAE 3000 Auditors Version 1 dated December 2018 (the "Audit Guidance").

Reasonable assurance procedures performed

We have planned and performed our work to obtain all the evidence, information and explanations considered necessary in relation to the above scope. These procedures included:

- ▶ Enquiries of management to gain an understanding of Emirates Gold's processes and risk management protocols in place
- ▶ On-site visit to the refinery to interview personnel from the logistics, operations, safe, refining process, and accounts that are directly linked with either sourcing, processing or storing the gold
- ▶ Enquiries of staff responsible for the preparation of the Refiner's Compliance Report

- ▶ Review of policies, procedures and internal controls that Emirates Gold has in place to conform to the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance
- ▶ Review of a selection of the supporting documentation, including gold supplier counterparty due diligence file and transaction's documentation
- ▶ Review of the Refiner's Compliance Report.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to travel restrictions, the two signatories of this report could not physically inspect EG premises and had to perform their audit procedures remotely. However, all the audit evidences and physical inspections necessary for the performance of the assurance work were performed onsite, essentially through team members based in Dubai.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Inherent limitations

Non-financial information, such as that included in the Refiner's Compliance Report, is subject to more inherent limitations than financial information, given the more qualitative characteristics of the subject matter and the methods used for determining such information. The absence of a significant body of established practice on which to draw allows for the selection of different but acceptable measurement techniques that can result in materially different measurements and can impact comparability. The methods used by refiners to comply with the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance may differ. It is important to read the Emirates Gold's gold supply chain policy available on its website.

Our independence and competency statement

We have complied with the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standard Board for Accountants, which includes independence and other requirements founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behavior.

In conducting our engagement, we confirm that we satisfy the criteria for assurance providers as set out in the LBMA Audit Guidance to carry out the assurance engagement.

Opinion

In our opinion, Emirates Gold DMCC's Compliance Report for the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, describes fairly the activities undertaken during the reporting period to demonstrate compliance and management's overall conclusion contained therein is in accordance with the requirements of the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance, Version 8 dated December 2018.

Ernst & Young Ltd

Partner

Senior Manager

Enclosure

Emirates Gold DMCC's Compliance Report dated 24 March 2021



Compliance Report – LBMA 2020

24 March 2021

The aim of this report is to summarize the steps taken by Emirates Gold DMCC (the “Company”, the “Refiner”, “Emirates Gold” or “we”) to achieve compliance with the due diligence guidance issued by the London Bullion Market Association (the “LBMA”) for a responsible gold supply chain for the calendar year 2020.

Details of the Reporting Entity

Refiner’s Name	:	Emirates Gold DMCC
Location	:	Jumeirah Lakes Towers, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Reporting Period	:	1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020
Senior Managers responsible for this report	:	M. and R. Shakarchi

Management’s Conclusion



Is the Refiner in compliance with the requirements of the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance for the Reporting Period?

Yes Emirates Gold has in place effective management systems, procedures, processes and practices to conform to the requirements of Version 8 of the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance for the calendar year 2020. In this document the reader will find a description of the reasons which support this conclusion.

If users of this report wish to provide any feedback to the Company with respect to this report, they can contact our Compliance Officer at compliance@emiratesgold.ae

Our Evaluation

The structure of our evaluation is to address separately each step in the “5-Step” framework for risk-based due diligence of the precious metal supply chain.

Step 1	Objective: Establish strong company management systems
	Compliance Statement: We have fully complied with Step 1
	Demonstration of Compliance: Adopt a company policy regarding due diligence for supply chains of gold The Emirates Gold Compliance, Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC), and Supply Chain Management Policy (the “Policy”) has been in use for the entire Reporting Period and this policy is consistent with the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance Version 8 (the “LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance”). In particular, our Policy expresses (i) our strong position against child labour, human rights violations and conflict financing, (ii) our commitment to applying a risk based approach to the management of supply chains, and (iii) our pledge to uphold high standards of environmental protection and sustainability. Our Policy is unchanged from the previous reporting period.



The Policy, which is approved by Senior Management and is updated when circumstances require (for instance last updated in 2018), appears in English on our website <http://www.emiratesgold.ae/> and is displayed on our internal “announcement board” to remind all employees of our responsibilities. The Policy is an integral part of our on-boarding process and must be acknowledged in writing by all our precious metal suppliers.

Set up an internal management structure to support supply chain due diligence

The implementation of the Policy is documented by a procedures handbook (the “Procedures”) which covers in depth all aspects of our internal processes, such as (but not limited to) responsibilities and authorities of relevant officers, monitoring, internal and external reporting, training, KYC and client on-boarding requirements, AML and CFT procedures, country risk determination, supply chain risk assessment, and risk mitigation.

The Procedures were updated once during the Reporting Period to mainly reflect the change in definition of conflict-affected and high-risk areas made by the Responsible Minerals Initiative (the “RMI”). This change was made because Emirates Gold also follows the RMI standards for responsible sourcing.

The Procedures describe in details the responsibilities and assign authority for the effective implementation of all aspects of the Policy. The implementation of the Policy and its widespread communication is achieved by a clear delegation of duties and authority, frequent communications with the Company’s employees, internal reviews (audits), and a reporting/whistleblowing mechanism for both internal and external grievances. Senior Management approves the content of the Policy and the Procedures, while the Compliance Officer, which has a direct line of reporting into Senior Management, is responsible for implementing the content of the Policy and the Procedures.

Senior Management monitors the effectiveness of the Procedures relying on independent external responsible sourcing audits (such as the LBMA, DMCC and RMI audits for previous years), internal reviews (such as the one performed in September 2020), and daily communications between Senior Management and the Compliance Officer (sometimes documented in the minutes of the monthly Compliance-Management meeting). The Procedures are a controlled document under our ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System, so all approvals to changes in the Procedures are performed in accordance with this ISO standard.

Our Compliance Officer and Senior Management play a pivotal role in the application of the Company’s due diligence measures and they continue their education, for instance by attending numerous meetings and interacting with individuals highly qualified on the topic of responsible sourcing (OECD, LBMA, DMCC, RMI, UN Group of Experts, NGOs such as Human Rights Watch, etc.) Due to the risk of COVID-19 the main conferences (DPMC, OECD, LBMA etc.) were cancelled in 2020 but our Compliance Officer participated in several webinars, for instance (a) the LBMA organized webinar in April on the US Department of State’s Perspectives on Responsible Sourcing of Gold in the Time of COVID-19, (b) the FATF webinar in July on the pandemic and its impact on AML/CFT, and (c) the LBMA webinar in November on the International Bullion Centres Initiative.

Our compliance and management teams are also knowledgeable having managed LBMA, RMI and DMCC responsible sourcing audits in the past, thus gaining experience and sharing information with auditors and those responsible for setting the standards. More generally our Company has been reporting publicly on its sourcing practices since 2012 with all third-party audit reports available on our website.

Our Compliance Officer is located on-site and fully immersed in the daily activities of the Company, and he is accessible to all employees. He is able to witness, check documentation, and inspect any shipment



received by the operations team. Our Compliance Officer has the necessary resources to perform his due diligence responsibilities.

The close proximity of the Compliance Officer and Senior Management means frequent daily interactions. However, the Compliance Officer and Senior Management also meet formally once a month to discuss all aspects related to the Company's risks and compliance framework. Minutes of these meetings are kept to guarantee effective follow up.

In 2020 three internal training sessions were conducted by the Compliance Officer on topics related to responsible sourcing, due diligence and anti-money laundering. All employees with direct contact with suppliers received training during the Reporting Period. In addition, new employees received basic training during their induction process on compliance, the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance, and the OECD Due-Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas.

Establish a strong internal system of due diligence, controls and transparency over gold supply chain, including traceability and identification of other supply chain actors

The Company maintains adequate documentation and records as described in this report (physically and electronically), and in line with the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance and industry standards. In addition, the Company keeps all necessary records of client on-boarding files and transaction documents which are maintained for at least five years. Each gold kilo bar is produced with a serial number and a corresponding certificate. We are therefore capable of tracing any of our own gold kilo bars to their original lot using our internal database and procedures. Our internal processes are also secure and robust in identifying inconsistent supplies and securing and segregating shipments. For example, melted bars from suppliers are segregated and separated overnight to avoid tampering or removal. We also identify supply chain actors in accordance with the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance and often perform due diligence and identification of supply chain actors beyond the standards set by this guidance.

In 2020, and continuing on its standards of previous years, the Company made and received payments for its gold trading operations almost exclusively through official banking channels so that the proceeds of transactions remain traceable. This simple risk-mitigation policy combats money laundering and conflict minerals financing directly at their source. In fact, in the whole calendar year 2020 the Company traded less than four kilograms of gold in cash, the majority being local sales of investment products, such as bars and coins.

Strengthen company engagement with Gold-Supplying Counterparties, and where possible, assist Gold-Supplying Counterparties in building due diligence capacities

Our officials typically travel locally and internationally to conduct on-site visits to educate suppliers, strengthen our understanding of active and potential new supply chains, as well as enhance our own knowledge of responsible sourcing.

This year however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic which Senior Management classified a Force Majeure because of unprecedented travel restrictions and potential severe/deadly impact on the health of our employees and suppliers, we had to cancel two international on-site visits. In both cases we have performed an internal review which analyzed the main risk factors of each supply chain and assessed the effectiveness of our risk mitigation steps. We concluded that sufficient enhanced due diligence and risk mitigation was performed on each of the relevant supply chains to reduce risks to acceptable levels in the context of the constraints imposed by the pandemic.

The feedback from on-site visits continues to play an important role in shaping our views and decisions around specific supply chains and also on more general themes such as artisanal mining.



Lastly, starting in late 2020 we opened a location in the gold souk to provide a better service to some of our bullion and investment bar clients. Supply chain due diligence, KYC, the on-boarding process, and monitoring however are performed exactly in accordance with all existing Procedures and our Policy, and are in scope of our independent third-party audits.

Establish a confidential grievance mechanism

A grievance mechanism is established to guarantee employee or external stakeholders' concerns, both minor and major, are reported anonymously if they wish, quickly and effectively. The mechanism also ensures that the Compliance Officer and Senior Management are made aware of such concerns promptly and able to take immediate action if necessary. An email address or anonymous internal box can be used to communicate grievances.

Step 2	<p>Objective: Identify and assess risk in the supply chain</p>
	<p>Compliance Statement: We have fully complied with Step 2</p>
	<p>Demonstration of Compliance:</p> <p>We continue to use a measured approach to assess risk by assigning risk levels to supply chains following the relevant guidelines and our own internal standards. In 2020, we used our multiple step risk assessment process as further described below.</p> <p>Identify risks in the gold supply chain</p> <p>From first point of contact with a potential new supplier, and on a continuously monitored basis, we assess and identify risks for both the supplier and the material delivered by this supplier. Our three main risk assessments in 2020 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (“CAHRA”) Assessment: Each sourcing country is assessed for (i) conflict, (ii) human rights abuses, (iii) severe deficiencies in governance, (iv) lack of AML regulations, and (v) sanctions, among other factors. The assessment provides us with a final determination whether the country classifies as a Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Area or not. We note that in 2020 the RMI has automatically classified all “covered countries” (as defined in Section 1502 of the US Dodd-Frank Act) as CAHRA. This is not an automatic requirement of the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance. • Supply Chain Risk Assessment: This classification is determined mainly by the content and quality of the supplier’s on-boarding documentation as well as red flags which can be classified in three categories (i) location such as origin and transit, (ii) supplier, and (iii) circumstances. The CAHRA assessment above is integral to our final assessment on whether a supply chain is high-risk or not. • Transactional Risk Assessment: For each transaction related to processing of precious metals bearing material a consistency assessment is made based on the knowledge of our team taking into account the supplier’s business intentions, documentation, the form of the metal and its origin. If any risks in these categories are identified, a risk evaluation form is completed and relevant mitigation steps are taken. <p>Our Policy and Procedures are built on our own high ethical standards as well as the OECD, LBMA, DMCC and RMI guidance for responsible sourcing. All on-boarding risk assessment processes and risk evaluation forms are documented in the Procedures and therefore consistent with our Policy, so in 2020 our risk identification and assessment framework complied with a robust supply chain management</p>



	<p>system. However, in the spirit of continuous improvement, we continue to analyze and review our own processes and welcome valuable additions or changes to our framework. We have in the past benefited from suggestions and recommendations from our auditors as well as other market participants to improve our systems. In addition, revised guidance documents from the LBMA, DMCC and RMI are issued from time to time which require us to amend some processes and progressively communicate with suppliers any changes that may affect them.</p> <p>Assess risks in light of the standards of their supply chain due diligence system</p> <p>Our risk assessment is consistent across suppliers and based on our documented due diligence practices. We assess risk as described above taking into consideration the information gathered from our direct counterparty, the various actors and their responsibilities in the supply chain (traders, exporters, miners etc.), and the origin and type of gold supplied (mined gold whether from artisanal sources or larger scale mines, recycled gold, jewelry, bullion etc.)</p> <p>Our Supply Chain Risk Assessment was carefully crafted to take into considerations the requirements of the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance as well as the DMCC and RMI standards, and due diligence documentation is collected for supply chains also in accordance with these standards.</p> <p>The Compliance Officer presents all potential new high-risk suppliers (as defined by our risk assessment) to Senior Management before any engagement begins. The supplier’s information and internal risk assessment is reviewed and discussed thoroughly and final approval comes from Senior Management. High-risk suppliers, if any, are reviewed at least once a year by Senior Management.</p> <p>The Compliance Officer is responsible for informing relevant employees, including Senior Management, of the classification of each supplier. The Compliance Officer is also responsible for monitoring risk classifications and transactions, and updating the risk classification of all of the Company’s precious metal suppliers. Key supplier information is readily available electronically to the Compliance Officer, the operations team, and also Senior Management.</p> <p>The Compliance Officer considers the LBMA guidance as a minimum set of due diligence standards and often performs more stringent and in-depth due diligence regardless of the risk assessment of a supply chain. In fact, documentation is often collected beyond the requirements of the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance even for supply chains assessed as low-risk. Compliance and management often undertake reviews of low-risk suppliers which present potential higher risk in the future.</p> <p>Report risk assessment to designated Senior Management</p> <p>Yes, as described above, risk assessments are documented and approvals are given by Senior Management when required.</p>
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Step 3	<p>Objective: Design and implement a management strategy to respond to identified risks</p>
	<p>Compliance Statement: We have fully complied with Step 3</p>
	<p>Demonstration of Compliance: Report findings to designated Senior Management</p>
	<p>Yes, the Compliance Officer has direct access to Senior Management and critical findings are reported immediately when they occur.</p>



Devise a strategy for risk management of an identified risk by either (i) mitigation of the risk while continuing trade, (ii) mitigation of the risk while suspending trade or (iii) disengagement from the risk

The process described in Step 2 identifies higher risk suppliers through the Company’s risk assessment framework and also assesses transactional risk. For higher risk suppliers, the assessment identifies the source of risks which can fall into three possible categories. Risk mitigation steps can then be initiated according to the source of the risk:

- Location risk identified from conflict-affected and high-risk areas from which the precious metal originates or transits (CAHRA).
- Supplier risk identified from the supplier’s operating principles, intended business, their beneficial owners, and the robustness of KYC requirements.
- Circumstances risk identified in the supply chain which may include for example risks associated to the type of material (mined gold, recycled bars, jewelry etc.)

Internal procedures describe risk mitigation steps to undertake for each category above. Such steps may include on-site visits to collect first-hand information on supply chains, and also checking independently the validity of some supplier licenses (for example) with the relevant local authorities.

For higher risk suppliers, the Compliance Officer will establish a plan for risk mitigation, and this plan will be communicated to Senior Management. During the process of risk mitigation, the Company may choose to suspend trading with the supplier until further information can be obtained that reduce the risk of processing their material. Ultimately, the Company disengages completely from suppliers who do not want to comply with its policy and procedures.

The Compliance Officer is responsible for monitoring the progress of the risk mitigation plans which have been initiated for high-risk suppliers (if any).

Where a management strategy of risk mitigation is undertaken, it should include measurable steps to be taken and achieved, monitoring of performance, periodic reassessment of risk and regular reporting to designated senior management

For the Reporting Period, the Company’s risk mitigation consisted in many of the steps above, including a robust gathering and analysis of the relevant transactional and supplier documentation. All relevant processes are included in the Company’s Procedures document.

Undertake additional fact and risk assessments for risk requiring mitigation, or after a change of circumstances

Compliance monitors actively supply chains and performs due diligence in line with the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance and often in excess of this standard. Risks which may not be captured by the guidance are also evaluated on a case by case basis depending on the information gathered on the supply chain. Transactions and client files are monitored for consistency and any changes in circumstances are investigated and documented.

Step 4	Objective: Arrange for an independent third-party audit of the supply chain due diligence
	Compliance Statement: We have fully complied with Step 4
	Demonstration of Compliance:



Ernst & Young Ltd based in Geneva, Switzerland (“EY Switzerland”) have conducted a reasonable assurance audit of the Company’s due diligence practices in accordance with the International Standard in Assurance Engagements ISAE 3000 Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information (ISAE 3000). The audit was conducted in line with the guidance and protocols provided by the LBMA. EY Switzerland interviewed our staff and audited a sample of the Company’s transactions, suppliers’ on-boarding files, and also checked our policy and procedures documents, as well as the implementation of our risk assessment framework and risk mitigation steps. They conducted the audit on-site in the premises of our refinery and through calls.

The Swiss office of Ernst & Young was chosen for their proven track record of LBMA Responsible Gold audits and because they are on LBMA’s Approved Service Provider List (updated 11th November 2020).

Step 5	<p>Objective: Report on supply chain due diligence</p>
	<p>Compliance Statement: We have fully complied with Step 5</p>
	<p>Demonstration of Compliance: Our compliance Policy is available on our website, and the present Compliance Report and associated independent reasonable assurance report will be available on our website when issued.</p>