Rio Tinto and the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI)

Rio Tinto is a pioneer in responsible mining and sustainability.

Rio Tinto co-founded the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative in 2012.

What is ASI?
A pioneering and independent third-party standards-setting and certification organisation

ASI’s mission is to recognize and collaboratively foster:

- responsible production
- responsible sourcing
- material stewardship

What is ASI’s goal?
Foster greater sustainability and transparency for the aluminium value chain from mine to market

ASI acknowledges companies’ performance by providing two types of certification:

One:
Performance Standard

Two:
Chain of Custody Standard

What is the Performance Standard?
It defines and evaluates three types of performance:

1. Environmental
2. Social
3. Governance

Its goal?
Address sustainability issues relevant to the production and material stewardship of aluminium across the aluminium value chain

The Performance Standard measures performance against eleven critical areas:

1. Business integrity
2. Policy and management
3. Transparency
4. Material stewardship
5. Greenhouse gas emissions
6. Emissions, effluents and wastes
7. Water stewardship
8. Biodiversity
9. Human rights
10. Labour rights
11. Occupational health and safety

A facility certified to the ASI Performance Standard is:

- certified for responsible stewardship of aluminium
- an “ASI Certified Entity”

Rio Tinto has ASI-certified facilities across its entire value chain, from mine to casthouse:

- Gove Bauxite Mine and related port facilities and power station
- Vaudreuil Alumina Refinery
- Alma Smelter
- AP60 Smelter
- Arvida Smelter
- Grande-Baie Smelter
- AP60 Smelter
- Kemano Power Operations
- Quebec Power Operations
- IPSF Port and Railroads facilities
- Kitimat Smelter
- Kemano Power Operations

Rio Tinto: 1st to be ASI-certified

May 2019
Rio Tinto is the first company to achieve Chain of Custody (CoC) certification, and it has done so across its entire value chain.

Chain of Custody Standard
Builds on and complements the ASI Performance Standard

Its goal?
Create a traceability mechanism so end users can be sure that the material (including aluminium) that they buy has been produced and processed by ASI-certified entities at all stages of the value chain.

How does a facility earn Chain of Custody certification, and what can it claim?
1. It must prove that the end material that it produces was ASI-certified at each stage of the production process.
2. Each facility that meets this requirement is a “CoC Certified Entity” and can claim it sells “ASI Certified” materials.
3. If there is a break, then the CoC status ends and cannot reach the final entity without purchase of ASI Credits.

How is a facility evaluated to earn Chain of Custody certification?
CoC certification must be proven in one of two accounting ways:
- Optimal: Mass Balance System
- Alternate: Market Credit System

The Mass Balance System:
- Validates at each stage of the process the percentage of ASI material certified going in and coming out.
- Puts the focus on connecting supply chain practices, not atoms.

The Market Credit System:
- Is similar to purchasing green energy credits.
- Allows a specific quantity of output CoC material from a casthouse to be allocated as ASI Credits to a downstream company via a certificate.

Rio Tinto was a very early adopter of the concept of responsible aluminium, and we’re very proud to be working closely with them together as part of the ASI.”

Daniel Weston
General counsel and global head, Nespresso

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