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# INDEPENDENT REASONABLE ASSURANCE REPORT

## LBMA RESPONSIBLE GOLD AND SILVER SOURCING AUDIT

Asahi Refining USA Inc

17 – 18 May 2022

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## REPORT SUMMARY

<b>Implementing firm</b>	RCS Global Group Address: 9a Burroughs Gardens, London, NW4 4AU, U.K. <a href="mailto:contact@rcsglobal.com">contact@rcsglobal.com</a>  CONTACT PERSON: Josephine Quioc, Project Manager CONTACT TELEPHONE: +49 173 233 83 68
<b>Type of assessment</b>	LBMA ISAE 3000 Reasonable Assurance Assessment
<b>Refiner</b>	Asahi Refining USA Inc 4601 W 2100 S Salt Lake City, Utah 84120, USA
<b>Assessed Timeframe</b>	1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

## 1. INTRODUCTION

We were engaged by Asahi Refining USA Inc ("The Refiner") to provide reasonable assurance on its Refiner's Compliance Report for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

The assurance scope consists of the Refiner's Compliance Report.

## 2. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Compliance Officer of the Refiner is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Refiner's Compliance Report in accordance with the *LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance Version 8* and *LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance Version 1* (the "Guidance(s)"). This responsibility includes establishing appropriate risk management and internal controls from which the reported information is derived. The criteria identified by the Refiner as relevant for demonstrating compliance with the *Guidance* are the activities described within the Refiner's Compliance Report.

Our responsibility is to carry out a reasonable assurance engagement in order to express a conclusion based on the Refiner's activities described within the Refiner's Compliance Report. Within the scope of our engagement, we did not perform an audit on external sources of information or expert opinions, referred to in the Refiner's Compliance Report. Our assignment is limited to the historical information that is presented and does not cover future-oriented information.

The procedures performed depend on our judgment as auditor, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement in the Refiner's Compliance Report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the preparation of the Refiner's Compliance Report in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control of the Refiner.

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 – LBMA Third Party Audit Guidance* (the "Audit Guidance").

This report has been prepared for the Refiner for the purpose of assisting the Compliance Officer in determining whether the Refiner's Compliance Report has complied with the *Audit Guidance* and for no other purpose. Our assurance report is made solely to the Refiner in accordance with the terms of our engagement. We do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Refiner for our work, or for the conclusions we have reached in the assurance report.

## 3. 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 methods used by Refiners to comply with the *Guidance* may differ. It is important to read the Refiner's gold and silver supply chain policy available on their website <https://www.asahirefining.com/corporate-responsibility/>. Such information and methods do not fall within the scope of the *Audit Guidance* and we have not undertaken any assessment in this regard.

## 4. INDEPENDENCE AND COMPETENCY STATEMENT


In conducting our engagement, we have complied with the applicable requirements of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants.

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

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to the description of the non-compliance contained within the Refiner's Compliance Report. This relates to the on-the-ground risk assessments that are currently being implemented at the Refiner to be in line with the Guidance's requirements.

## 5. CONCLUSION

In our opinion, the Refiner's Compliance Report for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022, in all material respects, describes fairly the activities undertaken during the year to demonstrate compliance, and management's overall conclusion contained therein, is in accordance with the requirements of the *LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance* and *LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance*.

Signature	
Assurance Firm	RCS Global
Date	20 May 2022
City, Country	Berlin, Germany





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