



COMMITTEE FOR MINERAL RESERVES INTERNATIONAL REPORTING STANDARDS

Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards - (CRIRSCO)

Promoting International Best Practice in the Reporting of Mineral Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves

Name

The name of the international committee is the Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards, but is usually referred to by its acronym CRIRSCO.

Role

CRIRSCO is a grouping of representatives of National Reporting Organisations¹ (NROs) that are responsible for developing mineral reporting codes and guidelines in Australia (JORC), Chile (National Committee), Canada (CIM), South Africa (SAMREC), UK (National Committee) and Western Europe (IGI and EFG) and the USA (SME). The combined value of mining companies listed on the stock exchanges of these countries accounts for a significant proportion of the listed capital of the mining industry.

A trend towards tighter corporate governance and regulation demands the application of good practice in mineral reserve management as well as high standards of public reporting by responsible, experienced persons. Based on the reporting codes of the above countries, CRIRSCO has developed an International Reporting Template (the Template), the purpose of which is to assist with the dissemination and promotion of effective, well-trying, good practice for public reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves already widely adopted through national reporting codes.

Consistent with the aims, objectives and strategies of its members, CRIRSCO provides an international forum that enables NROs to ensure consistency of their reporting standards in an international setting, and to contribute to the development of best practice international reporting.

¹ A National Reporting Organisation is defined as the body that produces and is responsible for a reporting standard, whether for a single country or a grouping of countries.

CRIRSCO serves the international minerals industry and its stakeholders, including professional institutions, mining and exploration companies, banks, accountants, regulators and shareholders.

CRIRSCO is concerned with the reporting of economic and potentially economic mineralisation as defined in the reporting standards. It is not directly concerned with the reporting of sub-economic or yet to be discovered mineralisation. However it maintains a dialogue with those entities, such as Governments and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), that require inclusion of such mineralisation in reports for strategic purposes to ensure consistency of reporting across all resource and reserve categories.

CRIRSCO's remit includes all forms of solid minerals, including base and precious metals, gemstones, bulk commodities, aggregates, industrial minerals and energy minerals such as coal and uranium. It does not include non-solid energy minerals such as oil and gas and water or geothermal energy. CRIRSCO engages with the developers of oil and gas reporting standards to ensure to the extent possible that resource and reserve definitions are compatible or mutually understandable to third parties.

In recognition of the globalisation of the mining industry and the financial and regulatory (eg corporate governance) systems that apply to it, CRIRSCO aims to engage with all relevant organisations on behalf of its members and to act as a focal point for dialogue and negotiation on international minerals reporting issues.

A brief history of the development of CRIRSCO is provided in Appendix 1.

Objectives

CRIRSCO exists to promote best practice in the international public reporting of Mineral Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves. CRIRSCO is an international advisory body without legal authority, relying on its constituent members to ensure regulatory and disciplinary oversight at a national level. Its existence recognises the truly global nature of the minerals industry and the agreed need for international consensus on reporting standards.

CRIRSCO aims to achieve its stated objective by:

- Promoting uniformity, excellence and continuous improvement in national and international reporting standards for Mineral Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves, through consultation and cooperation.
- Representing the international minerals industry on resource and reserve reporting issues, including discussions with other international organisations, attending international meetings and providing written submissions.
- Encouraging the continued development of international reciprocity of Competent/Qualified Persons through nationally-based Recognised Overseas Professional Organisation ("ROPO") schemes.

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- Promoting the use of a uniform and coherent best practice reporting standard for Mineral Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves, including the provision and maintenance of the CRIRSCO International Reporting Template.
 - Facilitating the exchange of information and dialogue among CRIRSCO members and other stakeholders through an actively managed web site that promotes discussion on current issues.

Strategic Relationship with ICMM

Since January 2007, CRIRSCO has been associated with the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), which shares similar objectives and also represents the international mining industry, initially as a Task Force of that organisation and from October 2009 through a strategic partnership. CRIRSCO will act at all times to uphold the principles of the ICMM (www.icmm.com). The ICMM provides financial and administrative support to CRIRSCO but has no direct control or influence over CRIRSCO activities other than those required to maintain the relationship, such as budgetary approvals and periodic reporting of progress on agreed projects. Both parties agree to promote the activities of the other where appropriate.

Full details of current CRIRSCO member organisations and extended stakeholders are provided in Appendix 2.

Eligibility for Membership of CRIRSCO

An NRO must meet the following criteria to be accepted for CRIRSCO Membership:

1. Produces and is responsible for maintaining a reporting standard that is compatible with the Template* Agrees to conduct international consultation with NROs represented on CRIRSCO before making amendments to its National or Regional reporting.
2. Includes self regulating sponsoring bodies that provide disciplinary systems and codes of ethics that govern the behaviour of Competent Persons or equivalents as defined in the Template.
3. Commits to engaging in CRIRSCO activities.

*Compatibility with the CRIRSCO Template means having a standard that is largely based on the Template with national variations as required by regulators, but with minimal variation of the definitions contained in the Template. For purposes of governmental reporting, mapping to a previous Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve classification is permitted, but “Compatibility” does not mean a national reporting system is linked to the Template by mapping alone.

CRIRSCO is currently a Committee representing NROs of Australia, Canada, Chile, South Africa, UK and Western Europe and USA.

NROs are organised in different ways. Some currently consist of a single professional body with no legal or regulatory status. Others consist of groups of professional bodies that to a greater or lesser extent broaden the range of disciplines providing input to the national body and may be linked to regulatory agencies or stock exchanges through the reporting codes/standards that they produce.

CRIRSCO accommodates these differences and adheres to the principle that its members represent a specific country or defined group of countries. At the same time CRIRSCO encourages the broad participation of stakeholders affected by minerals reporting in the activities of national reporting bodies either through joint ownership of national reporting codes or in an advisory or observer capacity.

In addition to direct input from its members, CRIRSCO is advised by national and international consultative groups which may include professional bodies, regulatory authorities, legal and financial institutions and mining companies.

Expansion of Membership

The objective is to expand membership of CRIRSCO to include any NRO that embraces the CRIRSCO objectives as expressed in the Terms of Reference but in particular that meets certain criteria. This means that the number of Members is not limited.

All NROs that potentially meet the criteria will be invited to apply for membership which will be pro-actively encouraged by CRIRSCO. Membership of CRIRSCO is open to all NROs whose application demonstrates that they meet the criteria.

Structure

NROs have each nominated two Representatives to CRIRSCO, except for PERC, which has three nominated representatives to acknowledge the number and diversity of its member organisations. The number of representatives from each NRO will be reviewed on an annual basis. The term of their involvement, and who should replace a current nominee are for the NRO to decide.

Executive

The Executive consists of the Chairperson, First Deputy Chair and Second Deputy Chair, elected by Committee members from within the Committee. The Chairperson is elected for a period of two years, commencing on July 1st, having served as First Deputy Chair for a period of two years. The Second Deputy Chair will also act as a stand in for either the Chairperson or First Deputy Chair and share the administrative executive burden.

Sub Committees

Sub committees shall be formed on an as-needs basis. Issues which might require such a continuing presence include dealing with UNECE and IASB and expanding membership.

Attendance at Meetings

All nominated representatives from each member NRO are entitled to attend Committee meetings in person. Reasonable costs for travel and accommodation for the representatives will be met from CRIRSCO funds. The costs of holding the meeting will be constantly reviewed by the Executive and will be discussed with the Committee.

NROs who show an intention to meet the criteria for Membership of CRIRSCO may be invited to send observers to CRIRSCO meetings to gain a better understanding of CRIRSCO and its objectives and may be included in relevant discussions outside the meetings.

Part of each Meeting will be open to other interested parties to attend.

Frequency of Meetings

Full meetings of the CRIRSCO Committee will be held each year. Sub committees shall meet at as required, but most of such meetings should be held over the telephone or by email.

Decision Making

The preferred method of decision making is by consensus, based on an acceptance of the benefits of a united voice on matters related to the Reporting of Mineral Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves.

CRIRSCO has no power to instruct any member NRO on any matter. It is accepted that there will be differences in the detail, while there can be an embracing of common principles.

CRIRSCO reports to its member organisations. The interpretation and implementation of internationally agreed recommendations remains the prerogative of the NRO at a local level.

Work programmes and budgets

Programmes of work and associated budgets are developed annually and form part of a rolling three year estimate. Work programmes and budgets are generally developed in July for the following three years with final approval being given in January of the first year.

CRIRSCO is a not for profit organisation that relies on its member organisations and their nominated representatives to carry out its work in a thorough and professional manner without direct remuneration. As noted above, partial funding is available from the ICMM and a significant amount of support is received from member employers and consulting organisations. The provision of funding to CRIRSCO does not provide any rights or privileges.

Appendix 1: The History of CRIRSCO

At the 15th Council of Mining and Metallurgical Institutions (CMMI) Congress at Sun City, South Africa in 1994, the CMMI Mineral Definitions Working Group was formed, made up of representatives from:

- Australia [Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM)];
- Canada [Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM)];
- South Africa [South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM)];
- UK [Institution of Mining and Metallurgy (IMM)]; and
- United States [Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME)].

The primary objective of the group was to develop a set of international standard definitions for the reporting of mineral resources and mineral reserves.

The initiative assumed greater urgency in March 1997 with the well publicised Bre-X scandal, and in October 1997 there was a major breakthrough when the five participants met in Denver, Colorado and reached provisional agreement (the Denver Accord) for the definitions of the two major categories, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves, and their respective sub-categories Measured, Indicated and Inferred Mineral Resources, and Proved and Probable Mineral Reserves.

Concurrently and since 1992, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) had been developing an International Framework for Mineral Reserves and Resources (Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities) otherwise known as the UN Framework Classification (UNFC). Through a series of workshops and Task Force meetings, a final version of the UNFC was agreed and prepared with the provisionally agreed CMMI definitions appended, translated into six languages and distributed worldwide for comment and trial application. By 1998, out of the 43 countries and international organisations that replied, 37 had or were in the process of applying the UNFC and some countries were adopting it for national mineral reserves and resource inventories.

At Geneva in October 1999, agreement was reached between CMMI representatives and the UNECE Task Force for the adoption of the CMMI standard reporting definitions for mineral resources and reserves, with minor modifications, into the UNFC for those categories that were common to both systems. The UNECE Task Force suggested, and it was agreed, that for ease of comprehension and to facilitate translation into non-English languages, the then provisional CMMI definitions be reduced into shorter sentences and given a numerical coding consistent with the UNFC. This agreement gave true international status to the CMMI definitions and preserved the distinction between resource and reserve reporting for commercial purposes and the maintenance of national mineral inventories.

As a consequence of the CMMI initiative, mineral reporting Codes and Guidelines developed in the major mining countries became standardised to a significant extent. In general, the various reporting codes are constructed so that the mandatory clauses including definitions are followed by guidelines which are not mandatory, but are intended to provide assistance and guidance to readers in interpreting the code. Each NRO is free to modify its guidelines to reflect local conditions but variations of the definitions and codes have been kept to a minimum and are commonly made with full international consultation.

The agreements noted above led to the release of an updated version of the JORC Code in Australasia in 1999, followed by first releases or significant updates of similar codes and guidelines in South Africa (2000), USA (1999), Canada (2000) and UK and Europe (2001).

At what was to become the final CMMI Congress in Cairns, Australia in May 2002, the professional bodies that formed the CMMI membership agreed to disband the organisation in favour of less formal bi- and multi-lateral links, with a preference for electronic communications. The CMMI Mineral Definitions Working Group risked becoming a casualty of this change. However, largely due to the enthusiasm and commitment of its members, the group survived and was reformed as the Combined Reserves International Reporting Standards Committee, or CRIRSCO. A representative from Chile attended this meeting.

In 2003, following an agreement between the IIMCH and the Chilean Ministry of Mines to develop a Mineral Resource and Reserve Code Chile became an official member of CRIRSCO. In 2007, Chile launched its Certification Code for Exploration Prospects, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves, supervised by a Mining Commission.

Initially retained to promote consistency and compatibility amongst the minerals reporting codes of the main mining countries, in 2005 it became apparent that there was a broader role for CRIRSCO to play in response to international events.

Public confidence in corporate management was severely damaged by numerous scandals such as Enron and WorldCom, leading to the development of significantly more stringent corporate governance requirements in the USA (the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002) and elsewhere. The oil and gas industry became embroiled in similar publicity with the over-booking of Shell's oil reserves in 2004.

Meanwhile, the UNECE continued to promote the idea of a single global code for reporting all minerals, including oil and gas. The 2004 version of the UNFC was largely re-written to include petroleum (oil and gas) reporting and in the process many of the earlier minerals definitions were lost. CRIRSCO re-engaged with the UNECE to address this issue and during the period 2006-2009, worked with the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) as petroleum industry representatives to map the CRIRSCO Template (first published in 2006) to the Petroleum Resource Management System, participated in a UNECE Task Force set up to map the Template and PRMS to the UNFC and a further Task Force to recommend revisions to the UNFC. This work culminated in the release of a new, and much simplified, version of the UNFC in December 2009. UNFC 2009 satisfies the need for high level definitions that can bridge the petroleum and minerals industries but leaves intact the detailed definitions, rules and guidelines that are commodity specific.

From 2007 CRIRSCO was invited to work with the International Accounting Standards Board as part of its research project on the possible application of International Financial Reporting Standards to extractive activities (petroleum and minerals). This relationship is on-going and as a result of the mapping exercise between CRIRSCO and SPE the IASB is likely to adopt the definitions contained in the Template and PRMS as the basis for commodity specific financial reporting.

Consultation on the IASB's Extractive Activities project is scheduled to begin in early 2010.

Each of these initiatives has a significant bearing on how mineral resources and reserves are defined, estimated and valued, and the way that they are reported and used in financial statements. The role of CRIRSCO as an international monitor of and participant in such changes is clearly a relevant one.

Appendix 2: National Minerals Reporting Codes and their Sponsors

The following countries are currently represented on CRIRSCO. Member organisations include all bodies that have a direct influence on the form and content of national reporting codes although they may be more or less active in the affairs of the national committee.

Australasia	
National Committee	Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC)
Member organisations	Australasian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy (AusIMM) Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) Minerals Council of Australia (MCA)
Representation from	Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) Financial Services Institute of Australia (FinSIA)
Canada	
National Committee	Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM)
Member organisations	CIM
Chile	
National Committee	National Committee for the Certification of Competency in Mineral Resources and Reserves
Member organisations	Mining Council (Consejo Minero) SONAMI (small + medium sized mining companies) Institute of Mining Engineers of Chile Association of Geologists Association of Engineers
South Africa	
National Committee	South African Mineral Resource Committee (SAMREC)
Member organisations	Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) Geostatistical Association of South Africa (GASA) South African Council for Professional Land Surveyors and Technical Surveyors (PLATO) Association of Law Societies of South Africa General Council of the BAR of South Africa Department of Minerals and Energy Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Council for Geoscience The Banking Association of South Africa The Chamber of Mines of South Africa (CoM)

United Kingdom, Ireland and Europe	
National Committee	Pan European Resources and Reserves Reporting Committee (PERC)
Member organisations	European Federation of Geologists (EFG) The Geological Society of London Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IMMM) Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI)
United States of America	
National Committee	Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME)
Member organisations	Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME)