



Committee for Mineral Resources International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO) Setting the World Standards

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From its 1994 inception until 2005, the Committee for Mineral Resources International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO) was led by Australian Norman Miskelly. CRIRSCO was originally an informal alliance of National Reporting Organizations in participating countries. With the recent rapid increase in international activity associated with the mining industry, CRIRSCO has evolved more rigorously. It is recognized by global organizations—such as the International Accounting Standards Board, the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)—as the key international organization representing the mining industry on the classification and reporting of mineral assets.

In 2007, CRIRSCO became a Task Force of the ICMM in order to provide it with strong industry support to carry out its mandate. Current members represent Australasia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Europe, Mongolia, Russia, South Africa and the United States.

In 2006, CRIRSCO established the International Reporting Template (IRT), which draws on the best of the CRIRSCO-style reporting standards, the Joint Ore Reserves Committee Code (Australia) (JORC), South African Mineral Code (South Africa) (SAMREC), Pan European Reporting Code (UK / Western Europe), Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Guidelines (Canada) (CIM), Society for Mining Metallurgy and Exploration Guide (USA) (SME) and the Certification Code (Chile). These reporting standards are recognized and adopted world-wide for market-related reporting and financial investment.

IRT is not intended as an international reporting code *per se*, and will not supersede the existing national reporting standards. It will be continuously updated and improved as new national codes and guidelines are developed.

Canada is well represented on CRIRSCO by Deborah McCombe and Paul Bankes, both

of whom are active on CIM resources and reserves committees. John Postle is a founder and former member of CRIRSCO.

CRIRSCO has adopted a number of definitions which can be accessed on their website (crirSCO.com). They include: “competent person” from the JORC Code; “modifying factors”; “exploration targets”; “exploration results”; “mineral resources”; and “mineral reserves.”

Included within the definition of resources are Inferred, Indicated and Measured Resource in ascending level of certainty based on geological evidence derived from detailed and reliable exploration, sampling and testing and continuity between points of observation ultimately through to determinative quantity, grade or quality, densities, shape and physical characteristics estimated with sufficient confidence to allow the application of Modifying Factors in sufficient detail to support mine planning and evaluation of the economic viability of the deposit.

Reserves can be Probable or Proven once economic and other relevant factors have been applied to the Indicated and Measured Resources.

The CIM sets out definition standards used in NI 43-101 disclosure of resources and reserves, and these mirror the CRIRSCO definitions and also define Pre-Feasibility Study and Feasibility Study.

Other resource and reserve committees essentially or actually have adopted the CRIRSCO definitions, and these include the following:

- The Pan-European Reserves and Resources Reporting Committee Report from November 2013.
- The JORC Code of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, which is considered to be the grandfather of all reporting codes, outside of United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Guide 7.

- The SAMREC Code from July 2009, which provides guidance and adopts the CRIRSCO definitions.

- The Russian Code (NAEN) from October 31, 2011, which allows for the reporting of exploration results, mineral resources, and mineral reserves, and is prepared in cooperation with CRIRSCO and the State Commission on Mineral Resources.

The SEC uses Industry Guide 7, which only permits disclosure of reserves and prohibits disclosure of resources. It provides only minimal guidance and uses the three-year average trailing price for metals.

In June 2014, the SME Guide (Resources and Reserves Committee, chaired by Harry Parker, the current chair of CRIRSCO), published recommendations for disclosure of resources and reserves, and these mirror the CRIRSCO resources and reserves.

Other codes in use are country-specific, for example, the Chinese Code, which uses a numbering system based *inter alia* on three-dimensional models encompassing economic viability, style of feasibility assessment and degree of geological assurance.

The adoption of world reporting standards is an encouraging sign and much progress has been achieved since the creation of CRIRSCO. The events of the last couple of years are proof that convergence of disclosure is now upon us. **M**

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