



**Responsible
Glass**

Sustainability standards

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR GLASS MAKING TERMS OF REFERENCE

Version 1.0 | 19 February 2026

Version History

No.	Date	Description
Version 1.0	19 February 2026	Approved by ResponsibleGlass Board

Disclaimer

The official language of this document is English. The definitive version is held on the ResponsibleGlass website <https://www.responsibleglass.org/> Any discrepancy between copies, versions or translations shall be resolved by reference to the definitive English version.

About ResponsibleGlass

ResponsibleGlass is a not-for-profit company established in England in 2025 with the objectives of:

- (a) maximising the contribution of glass to a sustainable society;
- (b) enhancing the responsible sourcing, production, use and recycling of glass by:
 - (i) providing a multi-stakeholder forum to build trust and achieve consensus in relation to responsible production, processing, transportation, use and recycling of glass including aspects associated with the responsible production, processing and supply of raw materials used for glassmaking;
 - (ii) developing international standards and certification and related tools; and
 - (iii) driving positive change through the recognition and use of responsible glass;
- (c) acting as a forum to exchange information and experience between multiple stakeholders;
- (d) collaborating, where appropriate, with other national and international associations and standards setting organisations to promote responsible glass.

The ResponsibleGlass International Standard for Glassmaking: Terms of Reference

1. About this document

This document specifies the Terms of Reference for the development of the ResponsibleGlass International Standard for Glassmaking.

It has been drafted in fulfilment of the requirements specified in the ResponsibleGlass International Standards Development Procedures Version 1.0, Section 2.2: Terms of Reference to develop or revise a ResponsibleGlass International Standard.

These Terms of Reference were approved by the ResponsibleGlass Board of Directors on 19 February 2026. They may be revised by the Board at its discretion.

Any revisions will be published promptly on the ResponsibleGlass website, and all stakeholders on the ResponsibleGlass Stakeholder List will be informed.

Comments or suggestions are welcome and should be sent to the ResponsibleGlass Secretariat at: standards@responsibleglass.org, with the subject line 'Comment: ResponsibleGlass International Standard for Glassmaking: Terms of Reference'.

These Terms of Reference are publicly available, and the current version may be downloaded without charge from the ResponsibleGlass website at www.responsibleglass.org/. Revised versions will be allocated a new version number with updates referenced in the version history table on page ii.

2. Terms of Reference

The ResponsibleGlass International Standard for Glassmaking ('the Standard') shall be designed to meet the following Terms of Reference, and to meet the requirements for Structure and Content specified in Sections 3 and 4.

2.1 Intended sustainability outcomes

The ultimate aim of the Standard is to maximise the contribution of glass to a sustainable society as described in the ResponsibleGlass Vision and Mission. The intended sustainability outcomes of the Standard are to mitigate the negative impacts of glassmaking and enhance its positive impacts in relation to: Occupational Health & Safety; Labour Rights; Human Rights; Local Communities; Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions; Noise, Emissions, Effluent, Waste; Water Stewardship; Biodiversity; Circularity.

2.2 Mechanism to achieve sustainability outcomes

Conformity with the requirements of the Standard is voluntary. The Standard shall be designed to achieve the intended sustainability outcomes through the recognition and use of glass that has been made in conformity with the Standard's requirements, and the value such recognition generates for glassmakers, their customers, and other programme participants.

In order to achieve its sustainability outcomes the Standard shall specify requirements for:

- the responsible sourcing of input materials for glassmaking, including primary extracted materials (mined, dredged, quarried, etc), synthesised materials (e.g. industrial chemicals), and pre- and post-consumer recovered glass (cullet);
- the responsible manufacturing of glass, including any processes and activities impacting on the identified sustainability outcomes at the glassmaking site under assessment;
- the definition, measurement, recording and disclosure of sustainability metrics relating to the sourcing of input materials for glassmaking, and the manufacturing of glass at certified sites.

The Standard may also specify supporting requirements relating to: Corporate Leadership and Governance; Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Management Systems; Stakeholder Engagement & Communication; Transparency/ Reporting on ESG aspects.

The Standard shall specify level(s) of performance that:

- encourage glassmakers in both developed and developing countries to participate in the ResponsibleGlass programme;
- merit recognition and endorsement by the ResponsibleGlass programme's civil society members and supporters;
- are recognised by business customers as addressing their concerns and requirements in relation to the social and environmental impacts of glassmaking.

Where the intended sustainability outcomes can be achieved most effectively through reference to, recognition of, or alignment with existing standards or programmes this shall be the preferred approach. This approach shall be applied, for example, to the recognition of existing programmes covering the responsible extraction/ production of input materials.

Requirements specified in the Standard will go beyond minimum legal requirements in many countries. If there is a direct conflict between the requirements of the Standard and a site's legal obligations the legal obligations shall prevail, although this may preclude a site from achieving certification.

2.3 Proposed scope of application

The unit of certification shall be the glassmaking site. The Standard shall be applicable to industrial scale glassmaking sites globally, including sites making flat glass, container glass and glass fiber, as well as glass for other product categories. The scope of application shall include assessment of the sourcing of materials imported to the glassmaking site. The scope of application shall include consideration of the social and environmental impacts of the processes and activities taking place within the glassmaking site under assessment, including the impacts of manufacturing processes taking place at the site but downstream of glassmaking itself, and processes and activities taking place within the site boundary but not directly related to the production of glass.

The Standard may specify aspects that relate to the site, but for which policies are specified, or for which the responsibility for implementation rests with other parties such as the site's corporate owner(s). In such cases the site under assessment shall be able to demonstrate that the requirements are effectively implemented at the site level.

The scope of application of the Standard shall not include service providers, mine sites, sites processing or manufacturing input materials for glassmaking, or sites carrying out further processing or manufacturing of glass

or glass products, where these activities are not located within the boundaries of a glassmaking site.

ResponsibleGlass will consider the need to develop further standards applicable to sites that do not make glass, if these are required to achieve the intended sustainability outcomes (see 2.3) or to support the intended sustainability claims (2.4).

2.4 Intended sustainability claims

The Standard is intended to support claims about the sustainability performance of certified glassmaking sites, and, on that basis, about the sustainability attributes of glass made and processed at such sites.

The Standard shall provide for the identification of different levels of performance by glassmaking sites.

The Standard shall provide the basis for on product labelling of the glass products made at ResponsibleGlass certified sites, but shall not specify the claims that may be made by glassmaking sites or by their customers in relation to the level of sustainability performance achieved, or the rules for the use of ResponsibleGlass trademarks in support of such claims. Such claims and rules for trademark use shall be specified through a separate standard setting process that shall include consideration of traceability and 'chain of custody' requirements at the site and between the site and downstream manufacturers and users of the glass made at the site.

2.5 Applicable decision-making procedure

The Standard shall be approved under Decision-Making Procedure B, requiring approval by a minimum 75% majority of the votes of Business Members of the ResponsibleGlass Stakeholder Council in good standing, and a minimum 75% majority of the votes of Civil Society+ Members of the ResponsibleGlass Stakeholder Council in good standing.

3. Structure

3.1 Dates of approval, applicability and planned review

On approval the Standard shall specify the date on which it was formally approved, its date of applicability and the planned year for its formal review.

3.2 Introductory section

The Standard shall include an introductory section which describes the objectives and scope of application of the Standard; provides a general description of the mechanisms for its verification; and describes the claims that may be made by businesses that have been verified as complying with the Standard's requirements.

3.3 Sections applicable to specific categories of users

The Standard may include sections or guidance applicable to specific categories of users (for example users making flat, container, fiber or other categories of glass) where this is necessary to ensure that the Standard can be applied effectively to different categories of users within its scope of application.

3.4 Glossary of terms

The Standard shall include or reference a glossary of key terms required to guide its consistent interpretation

and implementation.

3.5 Referenced standards

The Standard shall include a list of other standards that are referenced in its text.

3.6 Bibliography

The Standard shall include a bibliography citing intellectual source documents where relevant.

4. Content

4.1 ISO/IEC 17007: Conformity Assessment – Guidance for drafting normative documents suitable for use for conformity assessment (ISO/IEC 17007: 2009).

The drafting of the Standard shall take account of the principles and guidance specified in ISO/IEC 17007: Conformity Assessment – Guidance for drafting normative documents suitable for use for conformity assessment (ISO/IEC 17007: 2009).

4.2 Auditability, etc

Requirements in the Standard shall be auditable, verifiable or measurable, and be drafted to minimise ambiguity in interpretation and to be easily understood.

Requirements shall be drafted so that conformity can be assessed for any applicant within the scope of the Standard without the need for subsequent modification or adaptation.

4.3 Sustainability outcomes

Requirements shall address all of the Standard's intended sustainability outcomes (see Section 2.1). Only requirements that are relevant to achieving these outcomes shall be included.

Requirements may be expressed in terms of process, management or performance requirements.

Requirements shall be designed to achieve the Standard's intended sustainability outcomes irrespective of the use of any specific technology or patented items.

Administrative requirements related to assurance, claims or labels or other matters not connected to sustainability outcomes shall not be specified as requirements in the Standard but may be specified separately.

4.4 Compatibility with existing regulatory requirements

Requirements shall be at least as stringent as existing regulatory requirements in the countries where the standard is applied.

4.5 Monitoring of Effectiveness

The Standard shall include requirements for the collection and collation of the data necessary for ResponsibleGlass to monitor the effectiveness of the Standard in achieving its objectives.