

## ICE COMMODITY TRACEABILITY (ICE CoT) ADVISORY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

### 1. Introduction

ICE Benchmark Administration Limited (IBA) was founded in 2013 and has established comprehensive, robust and independent governance and oversight functions to ensure high standards of data collection, calculation, publication and surveillance across benchmarks and other services.

IBA's proven and market-leading technology and data management is now being used in the development of the ICE Commodity Traceability (ICE CoT) platform, which is being designed to facilitate cocoa and coffee market participants' compliance with the EU deforestation regulation<sup>1</sup> (EUDR). The EUDR is expected to create significant change and challenge for participants in the commodities markets, including origin countries, traders, operators and brands.

IBA is a wholly-owned subsidiary within the Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. (ICE) group. ICE exchange's benchmark Cocoa, London Cocoa, Coffee C® and Robusta Coffee futures and options contracts are the largest markets in the world to trade cocoa and coffee.

Part of the value proposition of ICE CoT is represented by IBA's governance expertise, and in particular the ICE CoT Advisory and Oversight Committee (ICE CoT AOC), which is a forum for advice and guidance from a range of industry stakeholders with diverse viewpoints, leading to a strong and transparent solution for the whole market.

### 2. The role of the Committee

The Committee provides independent oversight, governance and direction for ICE CoT to ensure that its design and operation addresses the needs of cocoa and coffee market participants in satisfying their due diligence obligations under the EUDR once implemented and evidencing the compliance of their products within the EU.

The Committee has an important voice in respect of ICE CoT and potentially further commodities traceability solutions developed by IBA in the future.

The Committee has been set up under the auspices of the established governance structure of IBA. IBA has a majority independent board, comprised of both independent non-executive and executive directors.

#### *Membership*

The composition of the Committee is set by the Board of IBA on the recommendation of IBA's Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (N&CGC). The Committee's Chair will also be appointed by the IBA Board.

The composition of the Committee is designed to include a balanced representation of key stakeholders, potentially including from origin countries, traders, operators, processors, cocoa and coffee businesses, brands; industry associations; and NGOs.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010

The Committee may be comprised of:

- Full voting members;
- Associate voting members (see below); and
- Non-voting Observers from EU Competent Authorities.

Because of the wide range of stakeholders, some may have representation through a panel of Associate voting members, one of whom would attend Committee meetings on behalf of the panel. The attendance by such stakeholders at Committee meetings may be decided by the panel on an ad hoc or standing basis.

Non-voting Observers from the EU Competent Authorities may also be invited to attend Committee meetings.

At present, the Committee comprises of full voting members only.

### **3. Terms of reference**

The authority of the Committee is set out in its Terms of Reference, as attached.

### **4. Meeting protocols**

#### *IBA Board Committee*

The Committee is a committee of the IBA Board and reports regularly to the Board.

The Committee's chair may attend Board meetings periodically in person or virtually. IBA provides regular written updates to the Board.

#### *Meeting frequency and participation*

The Committee meets frequently to steer the design of ICE CoT. When the EUDR is implemented, the Committee will meet at least four times each year.

Further meetings may occur, or actions be taken in writing, when deemed necessary or desirable by the Committee or its chair.

Members of the Committee may participate in its meetings in person or by telephone / video conference.

Alternates may attend occasional meetings in place of Committee members if agreed by the Committee chair in advance of a meeting.

A Committee member who does not attend three consecutive scheduled full meetings of the Committee may be asked by IBA to resign from the Committee. Any such decision shall be taken by the N&CGC.

Meetings are scheduled by IBA in autumn for the forthcoming year.

#### *Meeting quorum*

The quorum is three Committee members and no business of the Committee can be concluded unless a quorum is present at any meeting or any decision is subsequently ratified in writing after circulation to the full Committee.

### *Minutes*

IBA shares draft minutes with Committee members, requesting comments within one week. IBA addresses any comments received, in consultation with the meeting chair as appropriate.

The minutes are submitted to the Committee for formal approval at its next meeting. IBA circulates minutes of Committee meetings to the Board of IBA.

Public (redacted or summary) minutes are published by IBA. The approval process is the same as for the full minutes.

### *Working Groups and Sub-committees*

The Committee has appointed a working-group, the ICE CoT Technical Working Group, to review and give a market perspective on the technical and operational principles and documentation related to the design of ICE CoT and, where relevant, to report its findings to the Committee.

The Committee may appoint other working groups and sub-committees with such powers as the Committee may from time to time confer within the scope of the Committee's Terms of Reference.

### *Resources*

The Committee has no budgetary authority but IBA will provide the secretariat and other resources appropriate to the Committee's duties and responsibilities.

The Committee may recommend to IBA the retention of special experts or consultants where appropriate.

### *Confidentiality and Conflicts of interest*

Committee members are required to keep confidential Committee materials, discussions and decisions unless otherwise agreed.

Committee members must declare any private or professional interests that may result in a potential or actual conflict as soon as the conflict or potential conflict arises.

Individuals serve on the Committee in their own right and not as representatives of their employer organisations.

Committee members' declaration of conflicts of interest are published on [IBA's website](#).

## **Review of the workings of the Committee**

Unless agreed otherwise by the Board, the chair of the committee undertakes an annual review of the workings of the committee. IBA may arrange a review in a different manner, for example using external consultants.

The findings of the review are reported to the committee.

The findings are also reported to the N&CGC together with an assessment as to whether there is appropriate representation, expertise and experience among the Committee membership.

## ICE COMMODITIES TRACEABILITY ADVISORY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To provide independent governance and direction for the ICE Commodity Traceability Service (ICE CoT)<sup>2</sup>, which is being designed by IBA to address the needs of cocoa and coffee market participants in facilitating and evidencing compliance with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)<sup>3</sup>.
2. To provide guidance to IBA on the design principles and implementation of ICE CoT in the context of the needs of market participants for compliance with the EUDR, including due diligence, data collection and verification, risk assessment and mitigation, and in supporting the transfer of products along the supply-chain.
3. To oversee, review and comment on the design and implementation of ICE CoT, and in particular the methodologies for the validation checks for farm-origin data and for physical-flow traceability data in respect of cocoa and coffee and processed cocoa and coffee products.
4. To receive information with regard to the operation and performance of ICE CoT.
5. To recommend changes to ICE CoT where appropriate and to consider and provide feedback on proposed changes to ICE CoT.
6. To provide an important and authoritative voice in respect of ICE CoT, to include assisting IBA in the formulation of feedback to regulatory and governmental organisations in the EU and globally regarding deforestation legislation, and to support ICE CoT in any discussions with industry associations and NGOs.
7. To establish and oversee the work of the ICE CoT Technical Working Group and any other working group or sub-committee appointed by the Committee.
8. To keep these Terms of Reference under regular review and to recommend to IBA any changes.

January 2025

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<sup>2</sup> And potentially further commodities traceability solutions to be developed by IBA in the future.

<sup>3</sup> Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010