

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Responsible Jewellery Council

Current Jewellery Industry Issues

Please contact:
training@responsiblejewellery.com
if you have any questions
[Click here](#) for the RJC Team Contacts
on our website



Responsible
Jewellery
Council

Will the RJC system be harmonised with other voluntary initiatives and best practice systems?

The RJC Member Certification Code of Practices has sought to harmonise with widely accepted international standards wherever possible to reduce duplication. A range of international standards and voluntary initiatives are directly or indirectly referred to. These include:

- The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Labour Organisation (ILO) Fundamental Rights at Work
- Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and World Diamond Council System of Warranties for diamond shipments
- Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights
- SA8000 on Child Labour, remuneration, working hours, workplace discipline and grievance procedures;
- International Cyanide Management Code.

The RJC Chain-of-Custody Standard is designed to harmonise with other standards and initiatives wherever possible. Current relevant initiatives which share common issues and subjects with RJC's Chain-of-Custody Standard include:

- OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas
- Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act
- Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC) Conflict-Free Smelter/Refiner Validation
- London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) Responsible Gold Guidance
- World Gold Council Conflict-Free and Chain-of-Custody standards

Please also refer to our Collaboration and Engagement Page on our Website: <http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/about-us/collaboration-and-engagement/>

What does the Compulsory RJC Member Certification Cover?

The Scope of the Code of Practices captures the following elements, to contribute to Sustainable Development:

1. Business Ethics - Upholding ethical business practices for example covering areas such as Bribery, Money Laundering, Product integrity, Kimberley Process
2. Human Rights – upholding fundamental human rights, treating workers fairly and with respect, encouraging a diverse workforce, and provision of a safe working environment – for example covering but not limited to Discrimination, Freedom of Association, Health & Safety
3. Environmental – promoting efficient use of resources and energy, and reducing and preventing pollution -for example looking at Hazardous substances, waste and emissions
4. Management Systems - compliance with Applicable law, establishing policy and managing business risks including contractors, suppliers and partners for example reviewing Legal compliance, Business Partners

The Mining Supplement incorporated in the Code of Practices covers additional provisions for mining facilities, such as Community Engagement, Indigenous Peoples, and Tailings and Waste Rock Management.

www.responsiblejewellery.com

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, First Floor, Dudley House 34-38 Southampton Street, London, United Kingdom WC2E 7HF. The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.

How can RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification help us comply with the Dodd Frank Act?

The RJC Chain-of-Custody (CoC) Standard is designed to support companies' disclosure requirements under Section 1502 of the Dodd Frank Act. CoC Certification provides for an independently verified chain-of-custody for gold that communicates the due diligence that has been carried out under the Standard and the origin of gold included in shipments.

All Gold transferred under the RJC CoC Standard would be "DRC conflict-free" as defined by the Act. Please also refer to the FAQ on RJC Chain of Custody Certification.

How can RJC Chain-of-Custody help with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance?

RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification can be used to support implementation of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance, including, for example:

- CoC Certification can provide upstream companies with assurance of appropriate due diligence in accordance with the OECD Guidance.
- Refiners in particular can use CoC Certification as an independent third-party audit of their due diligence practices in alignment with step 4 of the Guidance. The RJC's Accredited Auditors meet the competence requirements of step 4.
- Downstream companies may elect to use CoC Certification as an audit of their due diligence practices, and to identify conflict-free sources of CoC gold with chain-of-custody information. The RJC also supports implementation of Appendix 1 of the OECD Gold

The RJC also supports implementation of Appendix 1 of the OECD Gold Supplement via its support for formalisation and professionalisation initiatives for ASM in the RJC Code of practices and the CoC standard. The RJC will publish CoC Certification information to assist the due diligence practices of all participants in the gold supply chain.

Please also refer to the FAQ on RJC Chain of Custody Certification and an RJC fact sheet on the OECD Guidance (<http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/files/RJC-Overview-of-OECD-DDG-Jun2012.pdf>)

How does the RJC Certification System address conflict diamonds?

Through the RJC Certification System, the RJC requires that its Members must not knowingly buy or sell conflict diamonds, or assist others to do so. The RJC Code of Practices includes four provisions requiring conformance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for rough diamonds and the World Diamond Council System of Warranties. Non-compliance with any of these provisions is considered a 'Critical Breach' under the RJC Certification System, which will trigger disciplinary proceedings leading to sanctions against that RJC Member, which may ultimately lead to expulsion.

The RJC Code of Practices also includes specific provisions on human rights, which refer to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, and ILO Conventions on child labour, forced labour, freedom of association and discrimination.

RJC Members must evidence compliance through an independent verification assessment, which involves desktop reviews and site visits. Independent, third party auditors will look for objective evidence of conformance in the form of management systems, observed practices and record-keeping.

Marange Diamonds and The RJC Certification System

The reported human rights abuses in the Marange diamond fields in Zimbabwe are of grave concern to all who advocate responsible practices in the jewellery supply chain. Through the RJC Certification System, the RJC requires that its Members must not knowingly buy or sell conflict diamonds, or assist others to do so. The RJC Code of Practices includes four provisions requiring conformance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for rough diamonds and the World Diamond Council System of Warranties. Members must also comply with applicable law relating to their business, such as sanctions put in place by governments, human rights, social and environmental conduct.

www.responsiblejewellery.com

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, First Floor, Dudley House 34-38 Southampton Street, London, United Kingdom WC2E 7HF. The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.

The RJC will continue to monitor progress on the Kimberley Process Certification System implementation in Zimbabwe and urges all parties to work diligently towards resolution of the situation.

What about Artisanal and Small Scale Mining?

The RJC Member Certification requires that Mining Members assist initiatives that enable the professionalization and formalisation of artisanal and small-scale mining, where it occurs within their areas of operation.

The RJC Chain-of-Custody Standard also aims to build bridges with legitimate ASM production. Included within the Chain-of-Custody Standard are scope for:

- RJC to formally recognise comparable mining standards, including in the artisanal sector, which would enable them to be 'Eligible Material' under the CoC Standard.
- Sourcing from ASM operating on the mining concessions of Chain-of-Custody Certified Entities, as part of an initiative to support professionalisation and formalisation of ASM.

The RJC is also collaborating with organisations that work directly with artisanal and small-scale mining producers, including the Alliance for Responsible Mining (Fairtrade/Fairmined Gold), the Diamond Development Initiative and Solidaridad.

How do you address the impacts on Communities and Indigenous Peoples?

Mining projects in particular need to manage their impact on Communities and Indigenous Peoples. The Code requires Members with mining facilities to:

- Have systems in place for appropriate community engagement throughout the project lifecycle
- Respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and seek broad-based support for mining operations
- Avoid or minimise involuntary resettlement
- Develop an Emergency Response Plan in collaboration with affected communities
- Provide access to rights-compatible complaints mechanisms

Is the RJC a Member of ISEAL?

The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) became a Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance, the global association for social and environmental standards, in 2012. ISEAL members are leaders in their fields, committed to creating solid and credible standard systems that give business, governments and consumers the ability to choose goods and services that have been responsibly produced. As a Full Member, RJC commits to ISEAL's mission and Code of Ethics and complies with ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice. Membership of ISEAL will help RJC continue to improve its standards development and implementation, and share experiences and ideas with other sectors.

Why does the RJC participate in the Global Compact – Civil Society?

The Global Compact has ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. The RJC Code of Practices (COP) sets standards of responsible business practices for its Members that aim to support the Global Compact agenda. Collaboration with the Global Compact brings added value to the RJC and its membership by developing synergies relating to responsible business practices in the jewellery supply chain.

www.responsiblejewellery.com

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, First Floor, Dudley House 34-38 Southampton Street, London, United Kingdom WC2E 7HF. The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.