



Dear Valued Member,

I hope this finds you well.

The RJC is a unique world-class standards organisation, committed to providing an equally world-class business service to its members. Maintaining this position requires diligence, planning and of course sustainable levels of funding. Last month, the Board of Directors met to discuss and agree upon an action plan for 2016 and beyond. In addition to the objectives mentioned above, next year we begin the preparation for our next review of the standards. As with the previous review, this will require appropriate investment and we need to plan ahead. The Board tasked the management team with:

- Development and implementation of 'smart system' technology to improve the self-assessment process for certification.
- Improve functionality of our website as well as other communication technologies with members and external stakeholders.
- Strategically extend the RJC's influence and raise our profile among the jewellery industry at large, by conveying our activities and benefits to; other industry sectors and stakeholder groups; civil society; governments and academia.

In order to realise these objectives, the Board agreed that member fees would have to be adjusted in 2016 and beyond. We are of course aware that this coincides with some of the most challenging market conditions in recent times. It is, however, the first such adjustment in our history.

The proposal is, with the exception of the minimum entry level, to return to the fee levels of six years ago before they were reduced by 25%. The organisation's reserves were healthier then and the management team were servicing just 20% of the total number of members we have today.

We understand there is never a good time to introduce such changes, but we trust you will appreciate the rationale behind the Board's decision. We are counting on your continued support to ensure RJC remains the industry's world-class standards organisation, providing world-class business service to its members.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for your continued membership in an organisation that was created by industry, for industry." said Charles Chaussepied, Chair of the RJC Board.

Kindest regards,

Andrew Bone  
Executive Director  
Responsible Jewellery Council

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

### **Responsible Jewellery Council Fee Structure from January 1 2016**

In the coming weeks, RJC will be sending out information to the various sectors outlining how this will impact their fee. The Board agreed that the calculation that has been used for ARS will ensure RJC welcomes large and small businesses, just as the Founders had envisaged.

Membership Category	Annual Membership Fee Rates	Current rates (2015)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diamond, gold and/or platinum group metals producer;</li><li>• Jewellery retailer</li></ul>	0.006% of Annual Relevant Sales (ARS) or \$60 per million dollars of ARS.  If ARS is \$100m, new annual fee is \$6,000	0.0045% of Annual Relevant Sales (ARS) or \$45.00 per million dollars of Annual Relevant Sales.  If ARS is \$100m, annual fee is \$4,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gold and/or platinum group metals trader, refiner or hedger;</li><li>• Diamond trader, cutter and polisher;</li><li>• Jewellery manufacturer and/or Wholesaler;</li><li>• Service Industry (e.g. gem laboratory, secure transport &amp; logistics)</li></ul>	0.004% of Annual Relevant Sales (ARS) or \$40 per million dollars of ARS.  If ARS is \$100m, new annual fee is \$4,000	0.003% of Annual Relevant Sales (ARS) or \$30.00 per million dollars of Annual Relevant Sales.  If ARS is \$100m, annual fee is \$3,000
New minimum fee applies: £500 GBP or currency equivalent (was £100)		

The RJC treats all information around its fees with the utmost confidentiality. For queries on this matter please contact Andrew Bone, Executive Director, Responsible Jewellery Council:  
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