



## NEWS RELEASE

**Embargoed until 9 October 2014**

### **RJC reaches new milestone – over 75% of Members now Certified**

LONDON – RJC is delighted to announce that more than 400 Members have now achieved Certified Member status under the RJC Code of Practice (COP) at the beginning of October 2014. This means that over 75% of the total 532 Members are now certified, with the remainder working towards their two year deadline following joining RJC.

These Certified Members represent just under 6000 facilities or locations covered by Certification spread across 53 countries. These locations employ over 270,000 people<sup>1</sup>.

Respecting the diversity of these locations spread across 53 countries, the RJC has made its [2009 and 2013 COP](#) available in seven languages covering English, French, Italian, Gujarati, Simplified Chinese, Spanish and Portuguese.

Diamond Traders, Cutters and/or Polishers are the most represented forum with 196 Certifications. Jewellery Manufacturers/Wholesalers follow with 116 certifications and Jewellery Retailers with 49 Certifications. The Gold and Platinum Group Metals Traders, Refiners or Hedgers forum holds 27 Certifications and the Service Industry forum 12 Certifications.

“We are proud to have reached such an impressive milestone. I would like to congratulate these Members and also thank them for their commitment. RJC is committed to help its Members achieve the desired standards and stay relevant to the issues and opportunities they face in relation to ethical and responsible business practices,” says Ashish Deo, RJC’s Chief Executive Officer.

2014 is a year of transition for RJC Members after a major review of the standards was completed in 2013. During 2014, Members can get certified against either the 2009 or 2013 versions of the Code of Practices. From 2015, RJC will only accept Certifications against the new code (COP 2013).

A significant number of Members have first achieved Certification during the second half of 2011. Most of these are at various stages of the Re-Certification process, since RJC Members have to be Re-Certified every 3 years. More than 40 have been successfully Re-Certified during 2014.

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://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, 9 Whitehall, First Floor Front, London SW1A 2DD.  
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.

All Commercial and Service Industry Members of the RJC have committed to be audited by accredited, third-party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC's Code of Practices and achieve Certification within two years of joining the Council.

RJC also introduced the Chain-of-Custody (CoC) standard in 2012. CoC Certifications are making good progress, particularly among gold refiners, with [12 CoC Certified Entities](#) across 8 countries.

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Notes:

<sup>1</sup> source: [RJC Impacts Report, June 2014](#)

For further information please contact:

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#### **About RJC**

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 500 Member companies that span the jewellery supply chain from mine to retail. RJC Members commit to and are independently audited against the RJC Code of Practices – an international standard on responsible business practices for diamonds, gold and platinum group metals. The Code of Practices addresses human rights, labour rights, environmental impact, mining practices, product disclosure and many more important topics in the jewellery supply chain. RJC also works with multi-stakeholder initiatives on responsible sourcing and supply chain due diligence. The RJC's Chain-of-Custody Certification for precious metals supports these initiatives and can be used as a tool to deliver broader Member and stakeholder benefit.

The RJC is a [Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance](#) – the global association for sustainability standards. For more information on RJC Members, Certification, and Standards please visit [www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

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