

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Responsible Jewellery Council

Membership & Member Responsibilities

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



Responsible
Jewellery
Council

What is the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC)?
<p>The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) is an international, not-for-profit organisation established to reinforce consumer confidence in the jewellery industry by advancing responsible business practices throughout the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain. The Council aims to build 'a community of confidence' across every step of the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain in all geographies, and among businesses large and small. It seeks to work with a wide range of stakeholders in defining and implementing responsible jewellery practices through the RJC's two certification standards - RJC Code of Practices and RJC Chain of Custody Standard). RJC is a Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance, the global association for leading voluntary standards organisations.</p>
What is the business case for joining the RJC?
<p>Consumers are increasingly concerned about the integrity of the products they buy. This concern is particularly important for the jewellery industry, as jewellery purchases are highly discretionary and have a strong emotional connection. It is in the best interests of businesses in the jewellery sector to ensure that they, and in turn the consumer, can have confidence in the integrity of the products they buy and sell. The RJC has developed a common platform of standards for the jewellery supply chain and credible mechanisms for verifying responsible business practices through third party auditing. Businesses that join the RJC and demonstrate that their business practices conform to RJC's common set of standards of responsible practice will have the benefit of recognition against an international certification system.</p>
What is the commitment for Commercial Members?
<p>On becoming a Commercial Member you commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the Mission of the Council;• Commit to achieve certification against the RJC Code of Practices within two years after joining the Council;• Implement continuous improvement processes to achieve increased performance and higher standards for responsible business practices;• Comply with the Antitrust Policy and Rules adopted by the Council in your dealings with the Council and other Council members;• Comply with the Rules adopted by the Council for the use of its logo and intellectual property.

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.

What are the benefits of RJC Membership?

Membership of the RJC offers the following reputational benefits:

Raise your Company Profile

- Promote your RJC Membership and Certification status on the RJC website and through the use of the RJC logo
- Join a mine to retail initiative unique to the jewellery and watch industry
- Enhance and preserve strong brand reputation - increasing resilience and strengthening your brand
- Use RJC Certification as a common international standard to provide credible assurance through the supply chain, reducing duplication

Join a Community of Confidence

- Demonstrate leadership in consumer confidence issues in the diamond, gold and platinum group metals supply chain
- Participate with industry peers in RJC Governance, Committee work programs and Member-only events
- Feature in case studies of good practice in RJC communications and events

Access Information and Advice

- Access free training on RJC Member Certification programs, a great opportunity to develop staff competency and receive support for the certification process
- Reduce commercial risk and provide a foundation of confidence for sustainable growth

How do I apply for Commercial Membership?

Full details on the application process and the application form are available on the RJC Website:

www.responsiblejewellery.com/applications/rjc-member/

Completed applications should be submitted to: applications@responsiblejewellery.com

Download a copy of the Commercial Membership Application Form



Complete the form and email it to applications@responsiblejewellery.com



Further details will follow once we receive your form

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How much does it cost to be an RJC Member?

Fees are set annually by the RJC Board. The current fees are as follows:

Membership Category	Annual Membership fee
Diamond, gold and/or platinum metals producer; or	0.006% of Annual Relevant Sales*
Wholesaler; or Gold and/or platinum metals trader, refiner or hedger; or Diamond Trader, cutter and polisher; or Jewellery manufacturer or Service Industry (e.g. gem laboratory)	0.004% of Annual Relevant Sales*
Minimum Fee: £500GBP or \$790USD Maximum Fee: £63,750GBP or \$102,000USD	
*Annual Relevant Sales (ARS) is defined as “the total sales derived from those parts of the applicant’s business that are directly involved in the diamond, gold and/or platinum group metals jewellery supply chain”.	

Further details on Membership Fees can be found in the Membership Application Form:

www.responsiblejewellery.com/applications/rjc-member/

Please direct any questions to applications@responsiblejewellery.com

What is the difference between RJC Membership and RJC Certification?

Any organisation in the diamond, gold and platinum jewellery supply chain can become a Member of the RJC, by completing the membership application form, agreeing to adhere to the Code of Practices, and paying the appropriate fee.

All RJC Commercial Members must then work towards achieving RJC Certification within 2 years of joining. Achieving RJC Certification within this time frame is compulsory for all Commercial Members. To become RJC Certified it is necessary to be audited by an accredited third party auditor and, provided the auditor finds the member substantively in conformance with the RJC Code of Practices, the RJC will grant that Member with RJC Certification.

What are the RJC Certification Standards?

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The RJC sets responsible ethical, social and environmental standards for the jewellery supply chain and has two standards.

RJC Code of Practices - Member Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched in 2009 • Assurance for Member's business practices • Compulsory for RJC Members
RJC Chain-of-Custody Standard – Chain-of-Custody Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched for Precious Metals in March 2012 • Assurance that metals are from responsible sources • Voluntary for RJC Members

As an RJC member, you can choose to obtain (the voluntary) RJC Chain-of-Custody (CoC) Certification but the Code of Practices Certification (referred to as RJC Member Certification) is compulsory and forms part of your membership commitment when you join the Council.

Where can we access information on the RJC Certification Standards?

RJC Code of Practices – Member Certification

All of the Core System Documents are available to download on the RJC Website: <http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/quick-downloads/rjc-certification-system-documents/>

The RJC Certification Handbook provides an overview of the RJC System and the requirements for achieving certification; this is a good document to review first. The Standards Guidance provides full details on the issue background, key regulations and the suggested management approach for each of the Standards in the Code of Practices. We recommend that you review the Standards Guidance whilst answering the Assessment Questions, and if you are wondering how to conform to a provision of the Code of Practices, consider adopting the suggested management approach. Please also refer to the Frequently Asked Questions documents for Conducting Self Assessments and Verification Assessments.

RJC Chain-of-Custody Standard – Chain-of-Custody Certification

Implementation of the CoC Standard is supported by a guidance document, assessment handbook, assessment toolkit (an audit protocol) and training. All of the Core System Documents are available to download on the RJC Website:

<http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/chain-of-custody-certification/>

Please also refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document for Chain-of-Custody Certification.

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