



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Benefit of RJC Membership for International Export Business of China Manufacturers to be Discussed at the Hong Kong International Jewellery Show - 7 March 2014**

LONDON – Conflict minerals legislation and a growing focus on corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the US and EU is driving increasing due diligence towards manufacturers in the jewellery supply chain. An RJC seminar entitled “How Responsible Sourcing can enhance your business in major markets” at the Hong Kong International Jewellery Show will gather Hong Kong and Chinese manufacturers and retailers, RJC Members, key industry stakeholders and prospective members.

Presented by RJC’s Interim CEO, Catherine Sproule, Charles Chaussepied, Piaget Director of Corporate Affairs, and David Bouffard, Signet Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Signet Jewelers Ltd., and Co-Chair of the RJC Standards Committee. The seminar will provide valuable insight into how the RJC certification program can help maintain and grow Hong Kong and Chinese businesses in the US and European markets.

Participants will learn how Hong Kong and Chinese companies can comply with USA/EU legislation, and how the RJC’s Certification program can provide customers with the assurance they need to source with confidence.

David Bouffard will explain a new Signet initiative that further strengthens its commitment to supply chain best practice and which is expected to result in increased membership of RJC from its supply chain over time. The RJC’s Code of Practices (COP) relaunched in 2013 forms a central part of that commitment. A new provision on Provenance Claims in the COP has been designed to align with other industry initiatives, such as the Signet Responsible Sourcing Protocol (SRSP), thus creating operational efficiencies.

Charles Chaussepied will describe how Piaget and the 18 Maisons members of the Richemont group are collaborating with the RJC to build an ethical and responsible supply chain. The project, which is due for completion at the end of 2014, involves all the suppliers of the group (precious stones, gold, components and parts suppliers).

“Signet and Piaget represent two very active RJC Members committed to RJC’s vision of a responsible global jewellery and watch supply chain. David and Charles will speak of the value and importance of

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

demonstrating responsible sourcing practices for a stronger business in domestic and export markets,” says Sproule.

“Signet believes continuous improvement in the integrity of the global jewelry supply chain is fundamental to ensuring consumer confidence in jewelry products sold around the world. We are therefore pleased to be enhancing our commitment to the RJC, and we expect our supply chain to do likewise over time,” says David Bouffard, Signet Vice President of Corporate Affairs, and Co-Chair of the RJC Standards Committee. “We have had great success with the implementation of Signet’s Responsible Sourcing Protocols, working collaboratively with our supplier partners and intend to further develop these protocols, including aligning them to the RJC’s provenance claim provisions. This will mean greater transparency in the industry, as well as, operational efficiencies for suppliers to Signet and others that are also RJC members.”

“The RJC Certification represents an important accomplishment for Piaget. It strongly upholds the philosophy of Piaget’s founder, George-Edouard Piaget, which is concerned with the quality of our products and responsible business practices. The certification demonstrates the ongoing engagement of the brand in favour of ethical values and the protection of the environment. Piaget is proud to be an active member of the RJC. We actively promote responsible business practices within our industry. Furthermore, Piaget and Richemont are fully committed to promote the RJC principles around the world,” says Chaussepied.

**Register [here](#) for the RJC event at the Hong Kong International Jewellery Show**

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 460 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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