



# **Responsible Jewellery Council: Responsible Practices from Mine to Retail**

**Better Gold Initiative Conference – Lima, Peru**

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**Maria van der Mijn – Standards Coordinator**

# Agenda

1. Brief overview of RJC and its Members
2. RJC Standards and Certification
3. RJC and Better Gold Initiative
4. Conclusions





# Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC)



- **Member based** organisation: businesses large and small, and across the jewellery supply chain, are eligible to become Members of the RJC; includes miners, refiners, traders, cutters and polishers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers.

- RJC will support Members in meeting its standards through training, guidance and toolkits.
- Independent auditors carry out audits.
- 459 Members, 302 Certified Members as of 1 November 2013

- **Standard-setting and certification** organisation: RJC sets standards for the jewellery supply chain covering responsible ethical, social and environmental practices.

- **Accreditation:** RJC accredits auditors who can independently verify a company's practices against RJC standards.

- 280+ RJC Accredited Auditors across 10 firms

- RJC Full Member of **ISEAL Alliance** – RJC is a full member of the ISEAL Alliance for sustainability standards.

## RJC Members – whole gold supply chain



PRODUCER



REFINER



MANUFACTURER



RETAILER

# RJC Standards

## RJC Code of Practices (CoP)

- ✓ Responsible business practices
- ✓ Claim about the Member **company** – how it runs itself
- ✓ *Compulsory* for RJC Members
- ✓ Reviewed over last 18 months – new CoP out



## Chain-of-Custody Standard (CoC)

- ✓ Responsible supply chain
- ✓ Claim about the **material** – where does it come from, how was it made
- ✓ Controls for conflict-sensitive sourcing AND for responsible business practices in the supply chain
- ✓ *Voluntary* for RJC Members





# RJC Code of Practices Standard 2013

## RJC CODE OF PRACTICES



GENERAL  
REQUIREMENTS



RESPONSIBLE  
SUPPLY CHAINS  
& HUMAN RIGHTS



LABOUR RIGHTS  
& WORKING CONDITIONS



HEALTH, SAFETY  
& ENVIRONMENT



DIAMONDS, GOLD  
& PLATINUM GROUP  
METAL PRODUCTS



RESPONSIBLE  
MINING SECTOR

# Sourcing from Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining



- ASM can be an important community development mechanism
- **Assess specific risks** when sourcing directly from ASM
  - Forced labour, worst forms of child labour, unsafe working conditions, uncontrolled mercury use, and other significant environmental impacts
- And use **best endeavours to positively influence ASM** practices and reduce or avoid the risks

- Such as capacity building, technical support, supplier requirements
- **Support**
  - Risk Assessment toolkit
  - OECD developing ASM 'hub' for gold





# RJC Chain-of-Custody Standard

- Opt-in: businesses define what materials / products / facilities are to be covered by the certification.
- *Management systems*: Code of Practices is foundation, plus risk-based due diligence and inventory control.
- *Material*: Supports chain-of-custody for individual or mixed metal sources, as moves through supply chain.
- CoC approach will take time to build: mining sector, refining, alloying, manufacturing, retail.
- RJC support for implementation:
  - Training on CoC standard and help desk for Members.
  - Website resources: webinars, fact sheets, Q&A
  - Harmonisation with relevant standards and initiatives (eg LBMA, EICC, WGC).
  - OECD collaboration – governance, outreach, projects





## Building bridges with Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

RJC Standards encourage formalisation and professionalisation of ASM, and control of sourcing risks. CoC provides vehicle for sourcing relationships that benefit ASM:

- Mines certified under a **Recognised Responsible Mining Standard**: Part A Fairtrade and Fairmined Standard has been formally recognised. *Update*: RJC will review the results following the same process as for the original Recognition. In the meantime, existing Fairtrade and Fairmined Certifications are still recognised under the RJC CoC Standard.
- Providing scope for ASM operating on the mining concessions of CoC Certified Entities as part of an initiative to support professionalisation and formalisation of on-concession ASM



## RJC and Better Gold Initiative

- Recognised Responsible Mining Standard is the vehicle for harmonisation between RJC standards and other ASM standards
- Refiners increasingly adopting CoC Standard so participation in BGI provides a platform to their downstream markets
- Now **7** RJC CoC Certified Entities, **6** refiners:
  - Allgemeine Gold-und Silberscheideanstalt AG
  - Metalor Technologies (Hong Kong) Ltd
  - Metalor Technologies SA
  - Metalor USA Refining Corporation,
  - Progold S.p.A
  - Umicore Precious Metals (Thailand) Ltd

## Why join the RJC?

- RJC welcomes businesses of all sizes
- Refiners are looking for assurance of good practices, as part of their due diligence
- Downstream jewellers starting to look at supply chain engagement





