



Responsible Jewellery Council

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

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

November 19, 2013 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)**

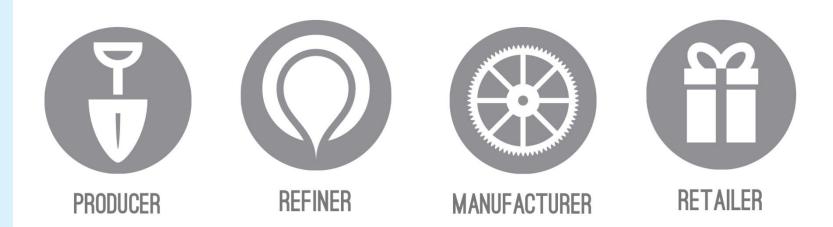
 Member based organisation: businesses large and small, and across the jewellery supply chain, are eligible to become Members of the RJC; includes miners, refiners, traders, cutters and polishers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers.



- RJC will support Members in meeting its standards through training, guidance and toolkits.
- o Independent auditors carry out audits.
- $\odot$  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.
  - $\odot$  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**



#### **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





Member

Certification

#### **RJC Code of Practices Standard 2013**



## **RJC CODE OF PRACTICES**





RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAINS & HUMAN RIGHTS









## 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

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# **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

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#### 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



