



BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE COUNCIL

# Hoover & Strong Inc.

IS A CERTIFIED MEMBER OF THE  
*Responsible Jewellery Council*

CERTIFIED MEMBER: 0000 1675

CERTIFICATION PERIOD: 1 AUGUST 2019 – 1 AUGUST 2022

*Transitioned from 1 to 3 year certification on 16 October 2019*

Handwritten signature of David Bouffard in black ink.

DAVID BOUFFARD  
*Chairman*  
*Responsible Jewellery Council*

Handwritten signature of Iris van der Veken in black ink.

IRIS VAN DER VEKEN  
*Executive Director*  
*Responsible Jewellery Council*

*Certification Scope*

*Hoover & Strong, Inc, Virginia, USA - Jewellery Manufacturing*

# RJC CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

## CODE OF PRACTICES

### *Summary*



Responsible  
Jewellery  
Council

<i>Certified member</i>	Hoover & Strong Inc.
<i>Membership forum</i>	Gold and/or Platinum Group Metals Trader and/or Refiner and/or Hedger
<i>Certification number</i>	0000 1675
<i>Certification period</i>	1 August 2019 – 1 August 2022 Transitioned from 1 to 3 year certification on 16 October 2019.
<i>Audit date</i>	25 - 29 March 2019
<i>Audit type</i>	First Certification
<i>Previous certifications</i>	0
<i>Applicable standard</i>	Code of Practices 2013
<i>Accredited auditor</i>	SCS Global Services Lead Auditor: Mike Turner
<i>Certification scope</i>	Hoover & Strong, Inc, Virginia, USA - Jewellery Manufacturing

### *Applicable provisions*

- 1. General requirements:** 1-4, except 3.2
- 2. Responsible supply chains and human rights:** 5-12, except 9.3, 11.3-4
- 3. Labour rights and working conditions:** 13-20, except 19.3
- 4. Health, safety and environment:** 21-25, except 21.10
- 5. Diamonds, gold and platinum group metals products:** 26-28, except 27.2 & 28
- 6. Responsible mining sector:** Not applicable

### *Provenance claims*

The Seller warrants that the gold has been supplied in compliance with the Signet Responsible Sourcing Protocol ("SRSP").

Hoover & Strong provides recycled gold, platinum & palladium under the trade name Harmony Metals™. The sources of these metals are from responsible source suppliers.

Hoover & Strong provides Fairmined and Fairtrade certified gold sourced from small-scale and artisanal miners. Hoover & Strong supplies gold sourced from artisanal miners in the DRC. These are fully traceable and conflict-free based upon a series of chain of custody documentation using the Consensus traceability and due diligence technology platform, and to OECD guidelines using the Better Sourcing Program.

Hoover & Strong sources Harmony Recycled Diamonds from our in-house refinery. A recycled diamond is a naturally occurring diamond from mined rough, previously set in jewelry and then removed for re-sale.

Hoover & Strong sources diamonds from Canada based on written assurances from our suppliers.

Hoover & Strong sources diamonds that are conflict-free based on written assurances from our suppliers.

### *Auditor statement of conformance*

Based on the scope and findings of the audit, the sites visited and the available information provided by the member:

- The member has demonstrated a conformance level consistent with a 3 year certification period.
- The member has demonstrated a conformance level consistent with the transitional 1 year certification period for 1 year.
- The member is not eligible for RJC certification due to having four consecutive 1 year certification outcomes.
- Critical breaches have been identified and the RJC management team should initiate disciplinary procedures.

## Mid-term review

Based on the scope and findings of the certification audit/re-certification audit, the sites visited and the available information provided by the member:



**A. The member will not require a mid-term review because:**



No anticipated changes to the certification scope during the certification period.



Member has < 25 full time equivalent personnel.



Low risks of changes to current conformance levels and strong management controls.



**B. The member will require a desktop mid-term review during the 3 year certification period to review progress on corrective action against non-conformances within 12-24 months, but a site visit is not required because:**



The actions can be verified remotely; or



No risk to critical provisions; or



There are parallel audit programs for equivalent recognised schemes (e.g. De Beers BPP, SA8000, OHSAS18001, ISO14001)



**C. The member will require a mid-term review during the 3 year certification period that will include the need for site visits because:**



Known and anticipated changes to certification scope during the certification period



Certification audit identified >2 minor NCs for critical provisions; or > 4 minor NCs in total



New systems and controls for critical provisions that could not be tested at the certification audit



Facilities with risk of non-conformances against critical provisions



Other compelling reason presented by the lead auditor.

## Confirmation

### The auditors confirm that:

-  The information provided by the member is true and accurate to the best knowledge of the auditor(s) preparing this report.
-  The findings are based on verified objective evidence relevant to the time period for the assessment, traceable and unambiguous.
-  The scope of the assessment and the method used are sufficient to establish confidence that the findings are indicative of the performance of the member's defined certification scope.
-  The auditor(s) have acted in a manner deemed ethical, truthful, accurate professional, independent and objective.

*Auditor signature*

On file

## Code of Practices certification

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This certification is issued in accordance with RJC's Assessment Manual. The standard, supporting documentation, and assessment manual, can be downloaded at: [www.responsiblejewellery.com/rjc-certification/code-of-practices-certification13-2/](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/rjc-certification/code-of-practices-certification13-2/)

This certificate can be authenticated by visiting: [www.responsiblejewellery.com/members/certified-members/](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/members/certified-members/)

If you have any questions about RJC certifications, please contact: [certification@responsiblejewellery.com](mailto:certification@responsiblejewellery.com)

The RJC aims to ensure the fair, timely and objective resolution of complaints relating to potential non-conformance with RJC certification or policies and procedures. The complaints mechanism and contact details can be accessed downloaded from: [www.responsiblejewellery.com/contact-us/rjc-complaints-mechanism/](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/contact-us/rjc-complaints-mechanism/)

### Disclaimer

No guarantee, warranty or representation is made by the RJC as to the accuracy or completeness of the information in this COP certificate, and no advice or information, whether oral or written, obtained from the RJC or elsewhere, will create any warranty, guarantee or representation in respect of this COP certificate. Compliance with RJC's standards and procedures is neither intended to, nor does it create, establish, or recognise any legally enforceable obligations or rights of, or against, the RJC and/or its members or signatories. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the RJC does not accept or assume responsibility to anyone for the audit process, for the member, for the entity, for the auditor, for COP certification, or for the decision to grant COP certification.