



NEWS RELEASE

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THE BIRMINGHAM ASSAY OFFICE IS THE FIRST ASSAY OFFICE TO BE CERTIFIED BY THE RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL

LONDON - The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) announced today that The Birmingham Assay Office is the first Assay Office in the world to be certified as meeting the ethical, human rights, social and environmental standards established by the RJC's Member Certification System.

"RJC is delighted to congratulate The Birmingham Assay Office on its certification. The successful verification assessment was conducted by Roshini Wickramasinghe from SGS, one of the independent third-party auditing firms accredited to the RJC's Member Certification System," says Michael Rae, RJC's Chief Executive Officer. A comprehensive audit covered The Assay Office's diverse range of services, which extend far beyond its core business of assaying and hallmarking. Analytical and melting services carried out by The Laboratory came under inspection as did AnchorCert's gemmological services, giving the Certification an extremely wide scope.

Michael Allchin, Chief Executive of The Birmingham Assay Office, says, "The Birmingham Assay Office has actively promoted the high ethical standards that RJC represents and is very pleased to have achieved RJC certification. We work in partnership with several major retailers and international brands that are equally committed to the principles of the RJC. Our certification demonstrates that shared commitment, and provides reassurance that our values and practices are in line with our customers. This augments our existing ISO 9001 certification and 17025 accreditation which demonstrate our dedication to quality and continuous improvement."

Kay Alexander, Chairman of The Birmingham Assay Office, says, "I am really proud of the high standards set by everyone at The Birmingham Assay Office which are now recognised at an international level and of the commitment and hard work which have given us this acknowledgment. We believe these high ethical standards to be vital to the future of the jewellery, precious metal and gemstone industry and will continue to contribute to this in every way we can."

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 350 member companies committed to promoting responsible ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices in a transparent

www.responsiblejewellery.com

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.
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and accountable manner throughout the jewellery industry from mine to retail. Their commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery products. The Council has developed the RJC Member Certification System, a certification system, which will apply to all Members' businesses that contribute to the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain. All Commercial Members of the RJC are required to be audited by accredited, third-party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC's Code of Practices and become certified under the RJC Member Certification System. A full list of its Members can be found on the web at www.responsiblejewellery.com

About The Birmingham Assay Office

The Birmingham Assay Office was founded in 1773 to provide a hallmarking facility to the rapidly expanding local silver trade. Over 238 years it has become established as the largest Assay Office in the world. During the past decade the Assay Office has expanded its services further, far beyond its statutory Assaying and Hallmarking duties and offers independent expert opinion on every aspect of the precious metal, jewellery and gemstone industry.

An active supporter of Fairtrade Gold and CIBJO, and an organization which prides itself on its independent expertise, integrity and innovation, achieving certification to Responsible Jewellery Council standards is very important to The Birmingham Assay Office.

The Birmingham Assay Office has a role to protect both the consumer and the trade it serves and it takes these responsibilities seriously. A not for distributed profits organisation, The Assay Office is continually investing in equipment and expertise to provide the services needed to protect the good reputation of the jewellery precious metals and gemstone trade in an ever changing market. The AnchorCert Gemstone facility is a prime example, being equipped with a full complement of sophisticated equipment to identify synthetics and the latest gemstone treatments. For more information about The Birmingham Assay Office please visit our website: www.theassayoffice.co.uk

[RJC Certification Information – The Birmingham Assay Office](#)

[RJC Certified Members](#)

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