

# Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC)

## Overview of the RJC and its Standards

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# Agenda



## 1. Overview Responsible Jewellery Council

## 2. RJC Membership Certification - Code of Practices

- Scope of the Code of Practices
- 2013 Code of Practices Review

## 3. RJC Chain-of-Custody Standard

- Overview & Structure
- ASM
- Conflict-Sensitive Sourcing
- Standards Harmonisation

# Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC)



## Mission

*“To advance responsible ethical, social and environmental practices, which respect human rights, throughout the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain, from mine to retail.”*

- **Member based** organisation: businesses can join the Council to support its mission; RJC will support Members in meeting its standards through training, guidance and toolkits.
- **Standard-setting and certification** organisation: RJC sets responsible ethical, social and environmental standards for the jewellery supply chain.
- **Accreditation body**: RJC accredits auditors than can independently verify a member’s practices against RJC standards.

## RJC is Full Member of ISEAL Alliance



- ISEAL Alliance is the global association for social and environmental standards
- In June 2012, RJC was accepted as Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance
- As a Full Member of ISEAL, RJC commits to its mission and Code of Ethics and complies with ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice



# RJC Standards: Important Elements

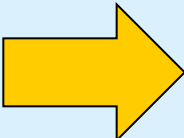


- **The Code of Practices:** A set of standards which lay out the specific requirements of each Standard;
- **Auditor Accreditation:** Independent, third party auditors who are accredited as competent to evaluate conformance against the standard;
- **Independent Verification:** Verification by accredited auditors to provide objective evidence that the requirements of the Code of Practices have been fulfilled;
- **RJC Certification:** A decision on certification is taken by the RJC according to the results of verification.

# RJC Standards



## *RJC Code of Practices*

- 
- ✓ Responsible business practices
  - ✓ Claim about the Member **company** – how it runs itself
  - ✓ *Compulsory* for RJC Members
  - ✓ Code in a review process for 2013



## *Chain-of-Custody Standard*

- ✓ Launched for precious metals in March 2012
- ✓ 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



# Scope of the Code of Practices

**Business Ethics:** - upholding ethical business practices.

**Human Rights and Social Performance:** - upholding fundamental human rights, treating workers fairly and with respect, and provision of a safe working environment.

**Environmental Performance:** - promoting efficient use of resources and energy, and reducing and preventing pollution.

**Management Systems:** - compliance with Applicable Law, establishing policy, and managing supply chain risks.

*Code of Practices is currently under Review*



## RJC Code of Practices Review - Process

RJC uses a multi-stakeholder process for standards development.

This includes:

- Multi-stakeholder Standards Committee
  - Elected representatives from each part of the supply chain and
  - Board-appointed representatives from civil society, related initiatives and other experts.
- Opportunity for public comment with at least 3 stages of comment periods on successive drafts.
- Consultation workshops and webinars.
- Consensus-building process to develop final standard (and supporting guidance/tools) for RJC Board approval.
- In doing so, RJC follows the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Standard Setting
- At the moment in Comment Period 2 – Proposed Draft Revisions to the Code of Practices : 13 December 2012 – 01 March 2013



# RJC Standards

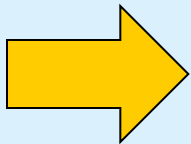
## *RJC Code of Practices*

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## *Chain-of-Custody Standard*

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## RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification



- Applicable to gold and platinum group metals (platinum, palladium, rhodium).
- Requires independent, third party auditing to achieve Certification against CoC Standard.
- Supports responsible, conflict-sensitive sourcing in supply chains via a chain-of-custody through Certified entities.
  - RJC Code of Practices (or similar) advances responsible business practices for all supply chain participants.
  - Gold refiners must apply conflict-sensitive sourcing for all sources of gold.
  - CoC gold must be conflict-free – due diligence by miners, verification by refiners, chain-of-custody through supply chain.

## How it works – key controls

- Certified companies must have systems in place to ensure CoC Materials are **segregated** from non-CoC Materials:
  - The CoC Standard supports the “Bulk Commodity” model
  - Also supports a “Track and Trace” model
  - Both models rely on the segregation of eligible from non-eligible material.
  
- Eligible Material becomes CoC Certified Material through the issuance of an **Eligible Material Declaration** by a CoC Certified Entity.
  
- The **CoC Transfer Document** provides assurance to the next company in the supply chain that the Materials are CoC Certified.



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

Enhanced focus on due diligence in gold supply chains is raising concerns for possible consequences for ASM producers.

The RJC CoC Standard aims to build bridges with legitimate ASM production via including the following under the CoC Standard:

- Mines certified under a Recognised Responsible Mining Standard that has been deemed by the RJC to be comparable to the Code of Practices; (Part A of the Fairtrade & Fairmined 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 ASM.

RJC has also signed MOU's with the Alliance for Responsible Mining (Fairtrade/Fairmined Gold) and Diamond Development Initiative.

# Conflict-Sensitive Sourcing

**Provision 10** sets out requirements for conflict-sensitive sourcing practices, draws from OECD Due Diligence Guidance, support for Dodd-Frank Act.

## Requirements:

- A formal policy for the supply chain of Materials from Conflict Affected Areas.
- Consideration of risks of non-compliance with the supply chain policy by suppliers, and actions to prevent or mitigate the risks.
- A complaints mechanism.
- For Gold Refiners:
  - KYC procedures for all sources of Gold.
  - Conflict-sensitive Due Diligence for all sources of Mined Gold.

## Harmonisation with Related Initiatives

The CoC Standard is designed to harmonise with other standards and initiatives wherever possible. Current relevant initiatives which share common issues and subjects with RJC's CoC Standard include:

- Cross-recognition of gold refinery audits:
  - London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) Responsible Gold Guidance
  - Electronics Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC) Conflict-Free Smelter/Refiner Validation
- Recognised Responsible Mining Standard:
  - Part A of Fairtrade and Fairmined Standard
- Conflict-Free Due Diligence for Mining Companies
  - World Gold Council Conflict Free Gold Standard
- Supports implementation of regulatory / normative initiatives
  - OECD Due Diligence Guidance
  - Section 1502 of Dodd Frank Act

# More information



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