



NEWS RELEASE

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RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL JOINS ISEAL ALLIANCE

LONDON – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) has joined the ISEAL Alliance, the global association for social and environmental standards, as an Associate Member. ISEAL members are leaders in their fields, committed to creating solid and credible standard systems that give business, governments and consumers the ability to choose goods and services that have been responsibly produced.

Voluntary standards and certification are increasingly important tools for businesses operating in complex supply chains. ISEAL was founded in 2002 by a group of pioneering sustainability standards systems, including the Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Rainforest Alliance and Social Accountability International (SAI, owner of SA8000). It provides a forum for peer support for standards and accreditation organisations and develops internationally applicable good practice guidance that is a requirement for its members.

As an Associate Member, RJC commits to ISEAL's mission and Code of Ethics. RJC will be audited for full compliance with the ISEAL Codes of Good Practice in standards setting and impacts evaluation within 12 months, in order to graduate to a Full Member of ISEAL. Other current ISEAL Associate Members include the WWF Aquaculture Dialogues, GoodWeave and the 4C Association. In June the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels and Accreditation Services International (ASI), both former ISEAL Associate Members, were approved for Full Membership.

"Membership of ISEAL will help us continue to improve our standards development and implementation, and share experiences and ideas with other sectors. ISEAL Members are standards organisations that commit to transparency, co-operation and good governance and RJC is delighted to become part of this community," said Dr Matthew Runci, Chairman, Responsible Jewellery Council.

"RJC is a leading standards system in the minerals and mining sector and we are pleased that they met all of the requirements for ISEAL Associate Membership. We are committed to supporting RJC to show compliance with ISEAL Codes of Good Practice and to engage actively with other leaders in the voluntary standards movement," said Patrick Mallet, Credibility Director, ISEAL Alliance.

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 310 member companies committed to promoting responsible ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices in a transparent 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 metals jewellery products. The Council has developed the RJC Member Certification system which applies to all Members' businesses that contribute to the diamond, gold and platinum 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 System. For more information please visit www.responsiblejewellery.com

About ISEAL

The ISEAL Alliance is the global association for social and environmental standards. Working with established and emerging voluntary standard systems ISEAL develops guidance and defines good practices to strengthen their impact and effectiveness. Full Members of the ISEAL Alliance are a leading group of standards systems that have demonstrated their ability to meet the ISEAL Codes and accompanying good practice requirements. Associate Members are newer additions to ISEAL and are committed to demonstrating full compliance with the ISEAL Codes within one year of joining. ISEAL reaches out to governments, business and other key actors who use credible standards, and creates a community for shared learning, with the aim of increasing the social and environmental impacts of sustainability standards. For more information please visit www.isealalliance.org

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www.responsiblejewellery.com

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.
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