



Q&A: RJC recognition of the Fairmined Standard for Gold from Artisanal and Small-scale miners

In September 2014, the RJC formally recognised the Fairmined Standard v.2.0 as a 'Recognised Responsible Mining Standard' under the RJC Chain-of-Custody Standard.

What is a Recognised Responsible Mining Standard?

Provision 4.1c of the CoC Standard provides scope for the RJC to formally recognise comparable mining standards. A Recognised Responsible Mining Standard is a third party standard for responsible mining practices deemed by the RJC, through a process of formal review and opportunity for stakeholder comment, to be comparable to the RJC Code of Practices.

1. What does the RJC Recognition of the Fairmined Standard mean?

The Fairmined Standard is being recognised by the RJC as a 'Responsible Mining Standard' for artisanal producers. In practice, this means that under the RJC Chain-of-Custody Standard, gold produced by a Fairmined certified mining organisation is viewed as another type of 'Eligible Material' for chain-of-custody sourcing. Volumes of this ASM produced gold, sourced and managed in accordance with the RJC CoC Standard, can thus be mixed with other types of 'Eligible Material', including recycled gold. The processes for sourcing and segregation are governed and audited under the RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification process. However claims around the Fairmined certification status of metals can only be made if the requirements of the **Fairmined System** have been met.

2. What if I'm a Fairmined Certified Producer?

If you are a Fairmined certified miner, recognition by the RJC will mean that your gold may be able to reach new and diversified markets. The recognition is likely to encourage interested RJC Members, such as major gold refiners, to source from your mine which means you have the possibility to access additional markets through alternative routes.

3. What if I'm already a Fairmined authorized operator or licensee?

If you are already authorized within a Fairmined supply chain then you can continue to source and sell on as per the Fairmined Standard requirements. The Fairmined initiative will continue to offer certified metals under the models Labeled, Incorporated and Fairmined Certificates. If you have any questions, please contact your Fairmined Account Manager in the Alliance for Responsible Mining.

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4. What does the recognition mean for RJC Members?

It is most relevant for CoC Certified Entities, particularly gold refiners. CoC Certified Entities may include gold sourced from a Fairmined certified mining organisation and mix it with other defined eligible sources to produce 'CoC Gold' under the RJC CoC Standard. Decisions on sourcing and commercial relationships remain at the individual discretion of RJC Members. Note that it is only possible to label or make claims around metal as being 'Fairmined' if you are authorized by Fairmined and meeting their [Standard](#). Sourcing from Fairmined certified miners, as one of a number of potential mining sources, will support the efforts those producers made to achieve their certification and demonstrate good mining practices.

5. What if I'm an RJC Member, but not authorized to trade Fairmined certified metals, but wish to express what Fairmined certification means for the Artisanal and Small-scale miners I am sourcing from?

If you are an RJC Member who is not already part of a certified Fairmined supply chain, but interested in sourcing and offering certified metals which can carry the Fairmined label then please contact info@fairmined.org. It will only be possible to use the Fairmined label, and/or make claims around Fairmined certification, if the trader purchasing from the miners is registered with the Fairmined certification system, and meets the requirements in the Fairmined trading standards. For questions about the RJC CoC Standard, please contact training@responsiblejewellery.com

6. What sourcing models does Fairmined offer that allow me to make claims around Fairmined certified gold?

The Fairmined system has three types of sourcing models: **Labeled**, a fully traceable model under which licencees can use the Fairmined label on finished *consumer products*; **Incorporated** which allows licencees to incorporate Fairmined gold into their supply chains and make claims on the *corporate level*; and **Fairmined certificates** through the purchase of which brands can support responsible ASM, without necessarily making a physical transaction, and communicate this on a corporate level, for example in the sustainability reporting. For more information please contact info@fairmined.org.

6. How does the recognition relate to the OECD Due Diligence Guidance?

The OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains includes an Appendix to the Gold Supplement to support sourcing from legitimate ASM production. As refiners are a key point in the gold supply chain, they are expected to apply due diligence to ensure no links with conflict and human rights abuses. Refiners will be looking for assurance from mines on this point, and certification provides important verification of mine site practices. Refiners implementing the OECD Guidance in terms of due diligence, and looking to support legitimate ASM production, are encouraged to participate in this and related initiatives that increase ASM uptake of certification.

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