



NEWS RELEASE

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RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL CALLS FOR FEEDBACK IN FINAL COMMENT PERIOD FOR CODE OF PRACTICES REVIEW

LONDON – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) is calling for stakeholder feedback on a final draft of the proposed revisions of the RJC Code of Practices (COP) and draft revised Standards Guidance. The RJC is currently undertaking a formal review of the COP, the standard against which all RJC Members, from mine to retail, must achieve certification within two years of joining the RJC.

The COP's proposed revisions have further evolved since the second comment period for the Review, with the RJC's multi-stakeholder Standards Committee having worked through the valuable feedback and questions raised. A restructure of the Code of Practices into a new grouping of the provisions is now proposed. This is mostly a re-arrangement of existing provisions. New section titles aim to better communicate the content of the standard and group provisions by themes, such as responsible supply chains and a responsible mining sector.

Major changes at the provision level include requirements that have been aligned to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, new provisions for Grading and Appraisal, Provenance Claims, Sourcing from Conflict-Affected Areas, and Sourcing from Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining. The Standards Guidance chapters have also been significantly revised, aiming to provide more detailed implementation guidance for businesses, including small business and key regions such as India.

The RJC welcomes the feedback of all stakeholders on the proposed revisions as it works to finalise the COP Review for the final quarter of 2013. The current public comment period will be open until 2 August 2013.

To access the consultation documents, please visit:

<http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/standards-development/code-of-practices-review/>

For more information, please contact:

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 420 member companies. RJC and its Members are 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. This commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond, gold and platinum metals jewellery products. The RJC 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 Certified Members of the RJC are audited by accredited, third party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC's Code of Practices. A voluntary Chain-of-Custody Standard has also been developed for gold and platinum group metals. The RJC is a [Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance](#) – the global association for sustainability standards. For more information on RJC Members, Certification, and Standards please visit www.responsiblejewellery.com

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