



NEWS RELEASE

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RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL CALLS FOR COMMENT ON PROPOSAL TO RECOGNISE FAIRTRADE AND FAIRMINED STANDARD UNDER RJC CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY STANDARD

LONDON – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) today released a Comparability Report of the Fairtrade-Fairmined Standard as a 'Recognised Responsible Mining Standard' under the RJC Chain-of-Custody Standard. A public comment period is open for all stakeholders until 4 June 2012.

The increasing international focus on conflict-sensitive due diligence has raised concerns that downstream supply chain participants may avoid Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASM) sourcing, driving ASM producers towards even more informal or even illegal supply chains. The RJC Chain-of-Custody Standard includes scope to support other responsible mining initiatives, in addition to the RJC Code of Practices. The Fairtrade and Fairmined Standard contributes to the formalisation and democratisation of ASM.

Formal recognition of the Fairtrade and Fairmined Standard as a 'Recognised Responsible Mining Standard' will bring additional market access to certified artisanal and small-scale producers. RJC CoC certified refiners will be able to source from Fairtrade and Fairmined certified small-scale gold producers, contributing to the integration of ASM into the formal economy. Companies purchasing Fairtrade and Fairmined certified Gold under RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification will need to also register with their local Fairtrade Labelling in order that they use the dual label and raise awareness of the challenges for ASM and the work they are doing to bring formalisation to the sector.

The inclusion of the Fairtrade and Fairmined Standard as a 'Recognised Responsible Mining Standard' for CoC will also help support broader efforts to implement the OECD Due Diligence Guidance, particularly Appendix 1 on formalization of artisanal and small scale mining. RJC, the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) and Fairtrade are all involved in ongoing discussions and programs to support ASM in gold industry due diligence processes.

Comments are invited to: consultation@responsiblejewellery.com

To download the Comparability Report for Recognised Responsible Mining Standards under the RJC Chain-of-Custody (CoC) Standard: Fairtrade and Fairmined Standard for Gold from Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining, including Associated Precious Metals, please visit: <http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/files/Comparability-Report-for-FT-FM-as-Recognised-Responsible-Mining-Standard-under-RJC-CoC.pdf>

www.responsiblejewellery.com

For more information please visit:

- RJC Standards Development: <http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/standards-development/>
- RJC Standards Committee: <http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/files/2012-RJC-Standards-Committee-list.pdf>
- Fairtrade and Fairmined Gold: <http://www.fairtrade.net/gold.html> and <http://www.communitymining.org/index.php/en/fairtrade-and-fairmined-standard>

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 370 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, a certification system – which will apply 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 Member Certification System. A full list of its Members can be found on the web at www.responsiblejewellery.com

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