

## *RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification*

**In March 2012**, the RJC launched a Chain-of-Custody (CoC) Standard that is applicable to gold and platinum group metals (platinum, palladium and rhodium). The CoC Standard aims to support responsible sourcing of these precious metals in the jewellery supply chain. RJC CoC Certified entities are audited to ensure that CoC precious metals are:

- conflict-free as a minimum, and
- responsibly produced – human rights, labour standards, environmental impact, and business ethics (as articulated in the RJC Code of Practices).



### What are “CoC Precious Metals”?

CoC gold or platinum group metals can be transferred or sold by CoC Certified companies. They will come with a CoC Transfer Document and can only be one or a mix of the following:

- Conflict-free **Mined Material** produced by a CoC Certified Entity, by ASM on its concessions, or under a Recognised Responsible Mining Standard, or Mining Byproduct declared by a Refiner;
- **Recycled Material** sourced from Eligible Recyclable sources, screened according to KYC principles to avoid illegitimate sources;
- **Grandfathered Materials** in existence in their current form prior to 1 January 2012.

CoC Certified companies must have systems in place to **segregate** CoC Material from non-CoC Material (either temporal and/or physical segregation), and to reconcile movements of CoC Material in their custody over a given time period.

### *Overview of the RJC CoC*

- Companies throughout the supply chain – mine to retail – can be certified against the CoC Standard, using third party, RJC-accredited auditors.
- The CoC Certification Scope can cover all or some of a company’s Facilities, one or more of gold, platinum, palladium and rhodium, and all or some of their production.
- Implementation of the RJC CoC Standard is supported by a guidance document, assessment handbook, assessment toolkit (an audit protocol) and training of companies and auditors.

*RJC CoC Certified  
Companies must:*

- Have a complaints mechanism for concerns about CoC Material.
- Have a supply chain policy for materials from conflict-affected areas. It should be communicated to suppliers and made publicly available.
- Consider the risks of non-compliance by its suppliers with its supply chain policy, and take action to prevent or mitigate the risks.

**Due Diligence in the Supply Chain**

Due diligence to support conflict-sensitive and responsible sourcing practices is of increasing importance to jewellery supply chains, particularly gold.

RJC CoC Certification can assist companies to implement the [OECD Due Diligence Guidance](#) through a framework of strong management systems, risk assessments and a chain-of-custody for CoC gold. Any gold sourced from the DRC and adjoining countries must always be identified in CoC Transfer Documents. This can support compliance with the Dodd Frank Act (Section 1502, Conflict Minerals) for those companies impacted by the legislation.

For gold refiners, RJC CoC Certification recognises audits carried out under the [LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance](#) and the [EICC Smelter/Refiner Validation Program](#). RJC aims to reduce unnecessary duplication of audits of gold refiners' due diligence approaches.

Miners must determine by due diligence that mined material has not provided financial or other benefit to Illegal Armed Groups or their affiliates operating in a Conflict-Affected Area. Conformance with the [World Gold Council \(WGC\) Conflict-Free Standard](#) can be used by miners as objective evidence of appropriate due diligence for the RJC CoC Standard.

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***Conflict***

*Armed aggression, widespread violence,  
and/or widespread human rights abuses.*

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**However, the strength of the RJC CoC Certification approach is that its due diligence not only addresses conflict – it addresses a wide range of CSR issues through the foundation of the RJC Code of Practices.**

**More information on the RJC website**

- Download the RJC Chain-of-Custody certification documents:  
<http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/chain-of-custody-certification/>
- Check the list of RJC CoC Certified companies:  
<http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/chain-of-custody-certification/chain-of-custody-certified-members/>

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