

25th March, 2009



RJC EXPANDS SYSTEM SCOPE

The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) today announced the retraction of the RJC System of certification's glossary definition of "Diamond" distributed on March 17th, following industry misapprehension as to its meaning and intent. The RJC sincerely thanks those industry members who brought this issue to the Council's attention so that it could be quickly rectified.

In developing the RJC System of certification, the RJC has sought to adhere to accepted relevant jewellery industry definitions, such as, in the case of diamonds, those promulgated by the International Diamond Council and the Federal Trade Commission. The RJC had no intention of redrafting accepted industry definitions.

The RJC is concerned to ensure that all participants in the diamonds and gold supply chain are fairly embraced by the RJC System, including the producers of laboratory-grown/synthetic diamonds and their customers. The Certification Scope of the RJC System now includes Gold and Diamonds and Laboratory-grown diamonds, The RJC's objective is to maximise industry-wide disclosure for the benefit of jewellery consumers, which will only be realised with the participation of all industry members in the RJC Certification System.

The RJC clearly differentiates between natural diamonds and laboratory-grown diamonds. Moreover, the RJC Code of Practices contains very strong product disclosure provisions, requiring that vendors clearly and specifically disclose all laboratory-grown diamonds to customers.

The glossary terms to be used in the RJC System will now read:

- A Diamond is a natural mineral consisting essentially of pure carbon crystallised with a cubic structure in the isometric system. Its hardness on the Mohs scale is 10; its specific gravity is approximately 3.52; it has a refractive index of approximately 2.42 and it can be found in many colours.
- A Laboratory-grown/synthetic diamond is any object or product that has been either partially or wholly crystallised or re-crystallised due to human intervention such that it meets the requirements specified in the definition of the word 'diamond', with the exception of being non-natural.

Under the RJC System, only a natural diamond can be described as a 'diamond' without a qualifying description such as laboratory-grown, or another term permitted under the RJC Code of Practices, i.e. laboratory-created, man-made, [Manufacturer's name] created, and/or synthetic.

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