

RJC Certification System formally launched

The RJC Certification System reached a major milestone in December 2009 with the finalisation of the Mining Supplement standards. RJC Certification is now open to every type of business that contributes to the diamond and gold jewellery supply chain, from mine to retail.

The bedrock of the RJC System is the use of third party auditing to verify conformance with the RJC's Code of Practices, making it objective, fair and transparent. With auditor accreditation processes underway, and training being delivered to Members on RJC system compliance, the RJC is poised for an exciting year of implementation across the supply chain in 2010.

Membership has continued to grow during the building of the RJC System, showing the commitment to consumer confidence of companies and trade associations across the entire jewellery

supply chain. As Members become certified against the RJC's requirements, they will be able to evidence the high standards of responsible business practices that stakeholders expect from gold and diamond jewellery.

RJC's standards development has been underpinned by wide-ranging consultation with the industry and its stakeholders. Building on the success of the Consultative Panel established in 2009 for the Mining Supplement, the RJC aims to continue and enhance its multi-stakeholder dialogue for 2010 and onwards.

"Credit must go to all who have contributed to this historic milestone. In particular, the Council sincerely thanks the co-chairs and members of the Standards Committee, participants in the Consultative Panel and the RJC management team. Their collective knowledge, dedication and input on the supplementary mining standards have enabled RJC to complete the additional work vital to being able to launch a very credible initiative on schedule," says Matt Runci, RJC Chair.

New Commercial Membership fee structure: 25% reduction!

The RJC is delighted to announce that the formulas used to calculate the membership fees for all the RJC's Commercial Members in 2010 will be reduced by 25%. The RJC Board has voted to reduce the percentage of annual relevant sales used to calculate dues from 0.006 to 0.0045% for retailers and diamond and gold producers and from 0.004 to 0.003% for those companies in the middle of the diamond and gold jewellery supply chain.

The RJC Board's decision follows a rigorous review of the RJC's budgetary position by a Dues Task Force led by Ruth Batson, the chair of the RJC's Finance Committee. The task force examined the RJC's financial requirements in 2010 as the Council moves from the research and development phase conducted over the past five years to that of implementing the RJC System.

"The Board has accepted the task force's recommendation that these reductions in the membership dues formulas are appropriate to provide relief to all commercial members in these tough economic times and, equally importantly, to ensure the RJC is fit for purpose; namely,

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Argyle Mine, from the left: Ananiah Minniecon, Darren Gore and Trisha Birch. Photo courtesy of Rio Tinto Diamonds.

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The Responsible Jewellery Council-Chain-of-Custody

The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) was established understanding that consumer confidence in jewellery depends on responsible business practices being applied throughout the jewellery supply chain. Therefore, the initial work of the RJC focused on the development of its Code of Practices, which set robust and auditable standards of ethical, social and environmental practices applicable to member companies throughout the jewellery supply chain, from mine to retail.

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 System.

Having established the Code of Practices, the RJC is now turning its attention to issues surrounding the chain-of-custody, or traceability, of product.

We believe that traceability can strengthen the integrity of the jewellery supply chain and we note that some RJC members have already implemented product tracking systems. The RJC will assist its members seeking to utilise chain of custody as a complementary element to the RJC certification process.

A wide range of different industries (product types) effectively use a number of credible proprietary systems to trace goods from the point of origin, through supply chains and production processes and finally to retail. These tracking systems are prevalent in the food industry, e.g. organics, coffee and fish, but are also utilised in non-perishable goods sectors, such as clothing, timber and pharmaceuticals.

In 2010, the RJC will investigate the applicability of such tracking systems to jewellery products. It is not the intention of the RJC to develop its own system of product tracking but to investigate the possibility of certifying the effectiveness, validity and claims made by proprietary tracking systems.

We look forward to working with stakeholders on this important initiative.

Mining Supplement incorporated in the Code of Practices

The RJC has succeeded in developing additional standards on key mining issues for the Code of Practices. The new standards have been developed through a transparent, multi-stakeholder engagement process with Members and stakeholders, over 18 months from May 2008 to November 2009. In addition to three public comment periods, a Consultative Panel comprising 15 external stakeholders worked closely with the Standards Committee during June to October 2009.

The RJC is sincerely grateful for the time, expertise and valuable input of the many individuals and organisations who contributed to the development of the Mining Supplement standards. The result is a significant achievement for the Council, creating the first independent, third party certification system for responsible business practices for diamond and gold mining.

The new standards will be applicable to RJC Members with Mining Facilities and are incorporated in the 2009 release of version 3 of the Code of Practices (and associated guidance and assessment questions). The new additions are summarised in the following table:

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Commercial Membership fee reduction continued

that the RJC has the necessary financial means to successfully implement and govern the RJC System," said Ruth Batson.

The Dues Task Force will continue to review all the RJC membership fees annually and submit its recommendations to the Executive Committee prior to the finalisation of the RJC's budget each 4th Quarter.



Ruth Batson

New appointed Member to the Board of Directors

The RJC is delighted to announce that in November the RJC Board unanimously appointed Bernadette Pinet-Cuoq, Chief Executive Officer of the Union Francaise de la BJOP as Director to represent the Trade Associations Forum. Bernadette's skills and enthusiasm will be invaluable to the Council.



Bernadette Pinet-Cuoq

Mining Supplement incorporated in the Code of Practices, continued

COP	Issue	Summary
1.6	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)	Commit to and support implementation of EITI.
2.6.8	Emergency response plans	Develop and maintain plans in collaboration with potentially affected communities, workers and their representatives and relevant agencies.
2.11.2	Community engagement	Early and ongoing engagement with affected communities and stakeholders throughout project's lifecycle; broad support for proposals should be sought.
2.11.3	Resettlement	Avoid or otherwise minimise involuntary resettlement.
2.11.4	Grievance mechanism	Affected communities have access to rights-compatible complaints and grievance mechanisms at the operational level.
2.12.3	Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights	Now applicable only to Members with Mining Facilities (not all RJC Members), as the Principles are aimed at the resources sector.
2.13	Indigenous Peoples	Respect Indigenous Peoples' rights; and seek broad-based support of affected Indigenous Peoples.
2.14	Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM)	Assist professionalisation and formalisation of ASM and engage with ASM, where on or around Facilities.
3.3.4	Tailings and waste rock management	Not use riverine tailings disposal at new Facilities, and exclude from Certification if at existing Facility; not use submarine tailings disposal except under specific conditions; all other tailings and waste facilities to ensure structural stability and protection of surrounding environment and communities; characterise mining wastes so as to identify and manage potential impacts from acid rock drainage and metal leaching.
3.5	Biodiversity	Not explore or mine in World Heritage Sites; respect legally designated protected areas; identify Key Biodiversity Areas within operating boundaries and implement biodiversity action plan; not undertake an activity that may lead to extinction of species on IUCN Red List; rehabilitate disturbed land.
4.4	Impact Assessment	Engage with affected parties to complete environmental and social impacts assessments and associated management plans.
4.5	Mine closure planning	Mine closure plan as early as possible, and ensure that resources are available to meet closure requirements. Engage regularly with local stakeholders on plans.
4.6	Sustainability reporting	Annual reporting using the Global Reporting Initiative Guidelines, with external assurance.

Mining Supplement incorporated in the Code of Practices, continued

The RJC System documents have been re-released to incorporate the Mining Supplement additions. Note that there are no material changes to the requirements of the Code of Practices or Self Assessment process for non-mining Members, so any existing work does not need to be redone. However all Members are asked to download the 2009 System documents so that they have the latest information.

Links:

The 2009 RJC System documents and a summary of revisions: www.responsiblejewellery.com/certification.html

History of the Mining Supplement process during 2008-9, including participation in the Consultative Panel and public reports for each comment period: www.responsiblejewellery.com/supplement.html

On 24-25 June 2010, in New York, the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010 will bring together leaders from all sectors to elevate the role of responsible business and investment in bringing about the needed transformation to more sustainable and inclusive markets. Sponsorship opportunities are open to companies with a commitment to sustainable and responsible practices through the UN Global Compact.

For more information, please visit <http://globalcompactfoundation.org/funding-summit.php>



Standards Program 2010-2011

Over the next two years, the RJC will support the implementation of the RJC System and continue to increase its influence and value for Members. Key work programs for standards development include:

- Expansion of certification scope: review the addition of platinum to the RJC's current focus of gold and diamonds.
- Gem labs and assayers supplement: gap analysis and development of additional standards and/or guidance as required.

■ Chain of custody: investigate feasibility of chain of custody standards as a voluntary additional certification option for Members under the RJC System.

The Standards Committee would welcome the involvement of more Members in the above programs. **Please contact Fiona Solomon – Director Standards Development, at fiona.solomon@responsiblejewellery.com if you are interested in participating.**

RJC Meeting Calendar 2010

RJC Members are invited to save the dates in their diaries!

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place in London on 19 May, 2010, followed by

the Member Forum and the Trade Association Meetings. Committee Meetings are planned to be held prior to the Annual General Meeting on 17-18 May, 2010. **Please save the date!**

RJC MEETINGS 2010

MARCH	Board Teleconference	
MAY 17	Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communications Committee - Membership Committee - Finance Committee - Executive Committee 	Location: RJC Head Office, London
MAY 18	Standards Committee Meeting	Location: Rio Tinto, London
MAY 19	Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Member Forum - Trade Association 	Location: Arundel House, London
LATE JUNE	Board Teleconference	
MID OCTOBER	Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standards Committee - Executive Committee - Member Forum 	Location: Jewelers of America, New York
LATE OCTOBER	Board Teleconference	

Member Training Update 2009-2010

The RJC used webinars to deliver the first training modules on its certification system to Members in October 2009. The online web based training is an ideal method for RJC to reach its world-wide Membership. The interactive technology allows each participant in the training session to be able to view the presentation and listen to the presenter from their computer, as well as ask questions throughout the session.

So far the RJC has had excellent attendance for the sessions in the first few months of training. The



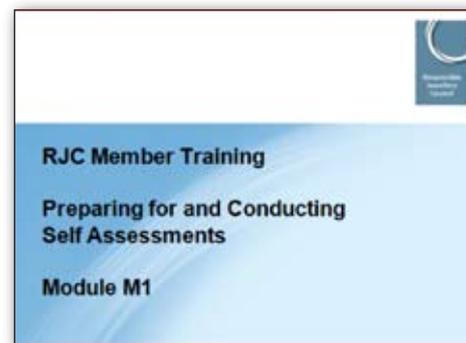
feedback for this delivery method has been very positive and beneficial for Members embarking on the RJC Certification process.

Members have commented that the training helps to put into perspective the RJC system documents by focusing on a Member's obligations and how to address them.

On completion of each training session, a copy of the presentation along with a summary "Questions & Answers" document is sent to all participants. RJC is using these Q&A's to compile a dedicated FAQ's section on the website. Please see http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/downloads/Frequently_Asked_Questions.pdf

How to access RJC Training Webinars

Each month the Responsible Jewellery Council will send out the Training Calendar for the next two months. The training modules are colour coded on the calendar to match the most appropriate time zones. To register for a training session all you need to do is click on the name of the module, this will take you to an online registration page. Once you have completed this, you will receive a confirmation email with details on how to access the webinar. The invitation may also be downloaded directly to your Outlook Calendar.



Please note that training sessions are for RJC Members and Auditors only.

RJC Training Material Available online to RJC Members

RJC Members will soon receive emails providing their individual user names and passwords to access a Members Only section of the RJC website to obtain copies of the RJC's training material and other guidance to assist with the implementation of the RJC System.

If Members or Conformity Assessment Bodies are interested in running an in-house training session or for any general information please contact Anna Leach, Administrative Services Coordinator, at anna.leach@responsiblejewellery.com.

The RJC Executive Committee met in New York on October 20-21 for the second of its face-to-face meetings of the year. The ExCo traditionally meets around the AGM timeframe in London and again in the fourth quarter to review and approve the budget to the Board.

In addition to reviewing the work of the Standards Committee, approving the Communications work around the launch of the RJC certification system and discussing membership growth and the Commercial Member fee formula for 2010, the ExCo also undertook a review of the RJC's Strategic Plan that was put into effect in February of this year.

"ExCo was very pleased with the adherence to the strategic plan, specifically around the level of membership growth, the RJC's management of its finances and the clear and consistent communications efforts leading up to the launch of the RJC System in December," said Matt Runci, RJC Chair.

ExCo Meeting in New York



Some of the attendees at the recent RJC ExCo meeting in New York. From l-r: Pamela Caillens, Catherine Sproule, Michael Rae, Ruth Batson, Mark Jenkins, Matt Runci and James Suzman. Photo: John Hall

Insights – Implementing the Self Assessment phase of the RJC System

‘Insights’ is an ongoing section in The Monitor that encourages RJC Members to share their approaches and learning in implementing the RJC System. In this second of the series, a representative from the Gold and/or Diamond Jewellery Retailer sector outlines the plans for Self Assessment of his company and how he is finding the process, by answering the following questions.

Joyeria Torres was founded by Luis Torres Marchant and his wife Julia Garrido in 1976. Joyeria Torres represents the Chilean and European traditions of the goldsmith craft. Every year, their workshop turns out unique collections, which combine traditional and contemporary designs. Today, the company is run by Luis Torres Jr. who has a MSc Degree on Computational Engineering and a long experience in the different areas of the company. Luis aims to maintain the biggest asset to preserve the family tradition and provide total satisfaction to the customers.

RJC: Joyeria Torres: What is your action plan for carrying out the RJC Self Assessment?

Joyeria Torres: The first action will be deeply involved in the self assessment process, for that reason we decided to translate the Assessment workbook into Spanish for a better understanding. This is an important step for us and for our staff. Moreover, we are organizing periodical meetings to go through the self assessment with our Management team and discuss if there may be any potential breach points in our modus operandi. This procedure will provide us with all necessary information to make a review of our business practices and planning process. We know that going through the self assessment may require dedication and time but we are confident that this action will bring a clear overview of our company and will highlight all non-conformances, if any, in a very clear way.

Who in your organisation will be involved in the process?

At the beginning family members will be the first ones to be involved. Hence, we believe that all our staff must be involved at the same level as we are, especially because we are a small retail company and everyone is responsible and has a relevant role in the final outcome.

What will be some of the key challenges and how are you trying to address them?

The biggest challenge is to train our suppliers who are new to the RJC System. Our main focus will be not only to educate them and explain what the advantages will be in undergoing the System, but also to make them feel conscious that we are all part of it, and everybody must collaborate to obtain the RJC Certification, for mutual benefit.

When are you aiming to be ready for a Verification Assessment?

It is difficult to envisage an exact date but we trust that next year we may have gone through the self assessment and be ready for the Verification Assessment.

What do you anticipate will be some of the benefits of implementing the RJC System?

Consumer confidence, so necessary in times of financial crisis, efficiency in our daily work and the gained confidence of our staff and suppliers, which would be a traceable proof of their worthwhile efforts in implementing the RJC system. The fact that our company will be operating its business in accordance with the prevailing Principles and Code of Practices on business ethics, social, human rights and environmental practices adopted by the Council, will be a matter of pride for all of us.

What advice do you have for other Members at this stage?

More than advising other Members from the rest of the world, we feel that our priority is to comply with the RJC System and promote the Council’s Mission on a national basis.

As the first Chilean Members in RJC, we aim to communicate and disseminate information about the Council and its activities to as many jewellery actors as possible in our own country in order to improve and avoid illegal business practices.

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We would like to thank Joyeria Torres for their perspective. If you have comments, or would like to share your organization’s approach and learning, please contact Mila Bonini, Communications Manager, mila.bonini@responsiblejewellery.com



Luis Torres Jr.

'FIRST' Jewellery Exhibition Show

The Responsible Jewellery Council is delighted to announce its first press conference at the Vicenza exhibition show 'First' on Sunday, 17 January at 11:30am, Conference Room 'Sala Fogazzaro'.

John Hall, Vice Chairman RJC and General Manager

External Relations Rio Tinto, will represent the Council, together with Pamela Caillens, Corporate Responsibility Director, Cartier International, Dario De Gregorio, Corporate Organization & International HR Coordination Executive Director, BULGARI, Catherine Sproule, RJC Chief Operations Officer and Mila Bonini, RJC Communications Manager, RJC.

The theme of the Press Conference will be: "Using

the Responsible Jewellery Council Certification System to reinforce consumer confidence and promote your business by credibly evidencing your high standards."

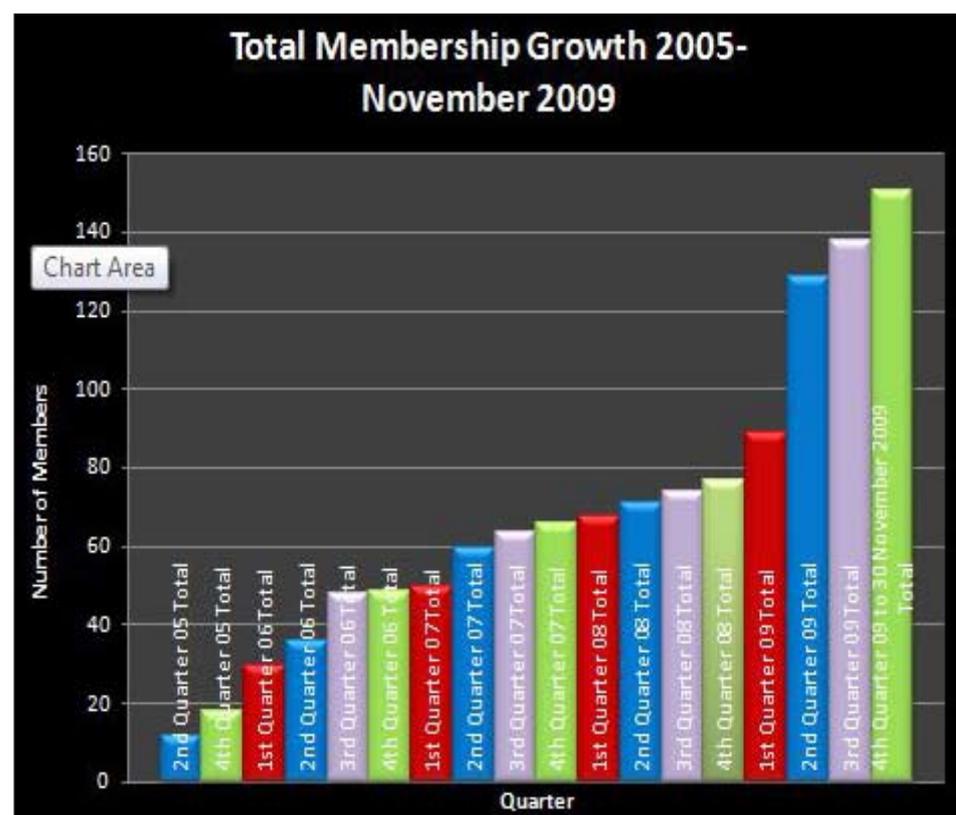
All Trade Media, RJC Members and exhibitors are invited and welcome to attend. For interviews and more information contact: mila.bonini@responsiblejewellery.com

New Members

This graph shows the rise in RJC Membership since its inception in May 2005 to 30th November, 2009. This very encouraging rise in membership

numbers has enabled the RJC Board to reduce the membership fee formula by 25%.

The following companies have been welcomed as RJC Members since the publication of the September edition of The RJC Monitor.



Allgemeine Gold - und Silberscheideanstalt AG, November 2009 www.allgemeine-gold.de

Blacklock Jewellery, October 2009
www.blacklockjewellery.com

Berker Bros Ltd, November 2009
www.berkerbros.co.uk

China Diamond Corporation Ltd, October 2009
www.chinadia.com

Corona Jewellery Company Ltd, October 2009
www.coronajewellery.com

Fabergé Suisse SA, October 2009
www.faberge.com

Gay Freres SAS, November 2009
www.gayfreres.com

GUCCI, November 2009
www.gucci.com

Historic Originals Ltd, November 2009
www.hotdiamonds.com

JMG, November 2009

L&N Diamonds Ltd, November 2009
www.indiamonds.com

Sustainable & Responsible Solutions Ltd, November 2009
www.sustainableandresponsible.com

YL Diamonds Ltd, October 2009
www.yldiamonds.com

The RJC Monitor

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