



Responsible Jewellery Council

NEWS RELEASE

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RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL RELEASES 2ND DISCUSSION PAPER ON CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY CERTIFICATION

LONDON – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) today released its second discussion paper on Chain-of-Custody Certification, for public comment.

The purpose of this paper is to seek feedback on proposals for RJC to develop Chain-of-Custody Certification in the jewellery supply chain for diamonds, gold and platinum metals. The paper will be available to download from: <http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/chain-of-custody.html>

The proposed RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification System aims to enable businesses to demonstrate rigorous assurance for responsible supply chains. Importantly, it would allow for on-product RJC certification of tracked diamonds, gold and/or platinum metals in jewellery products for consumer sale. It is hoped that the RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification System could be launched in 2012.

Currently, RJC Member Certification enables claims about responsible business practices at the level of that business. RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification, when combined with RJC Member Certification, would enable product-related claims about responsible supply chains to be made to consumers. By implementing chain-of-custody management systems, businesses could show their customers the provenance of the material in their products, including through voluntary use of the RJC Certified Product label.

The proposed RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification System represents the first attempt to develop a large-scale initiative of this scope for the jewellery industry. The certification system would encompass tracking of eligible material and conditions for responsible business practices, and would be applicable internationally and across the supply chain from production to retail. The requirements to achieve certification would not be prescriptive; businesses would establish their own management systems to suit the nature and scale of their activities and deliver the required performance. Businesses wishing to become certified would be audited by RJC-accredited, independent, third party auditors.

An initial draft Standard has been laid out in some detail, to help facilitate concrete discussion about design and implementation issues. The draft Standard aims to strike a balance between commercially realistic requirements and the critical objective of supply chain integrity. The RJC welcomes input on how the proposal could be further improved and is providing a four month public comment period for stakeholder review of this paper, until 31 January 2011.

www.responsiblejewellery.com

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, First Floor, Dudley House, 34-38 Southampton Street, London, UK, WC2E 7HF.
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.

An open and transparent, multi-stakeholder standards development process is planned, with multiple rounds of public comment opportunities. The standards development process is overseen by the RJC Standards Committee, comprised of representatives of RJC Members drawn from across the jewellery supply chain from mine to retail, in consultation with a Standards Consultative Panel established in June 2010. Participants in the Consultative Panel include leading non-government organisations, standards/supply chain associations, research institutions, and companies that operate product tracking systems.

Links:

RJC Standards Development:

<http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/standards.html>

RJC Standards Committee:

http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/downloads/RJC_Standards_Committee_July2010.pdf

RJC Consultative Panel:

http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/downloads/RJC_Standards_Consultative_Panel_July2010.pdf

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 250 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 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 System. For more information please visit www.responsiblejewellery.com

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