

NFWS RFLFASE

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GEMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA - RE-CERTIFIED BY THE RJC

LONDON - RJC announced today that GIA (Gemological Institute of America), its U.S.-based Service Industry Member, has achieved Re-Certification by meeting the highest ethical, social and environmental standards established by the RJC.

"RJC congratulates GIA on achieving Re-Certification after its first in 2011. After a Member has become RJC Certified for the first time, independent verification is required at the end of each certification period to ensure continued conformance and thereby maintain Certified Member status," says Ashish Deo, RJC's Chief Executive Officer.

The successful verification assessment was conducted by UL Responsible Sourcing, one of the independent third-party auditing firms accredited by the RJC.

"Achieving RJC Re-Certification is a testament to the remarkable devotion of GIA staff worldwide to ethical business practices and integrity in every aspect of our work. As an organization dedicated to serving public interest, we strive to apply the utmost responsible practices each day as we work to fulfil our mission of protecting the public trust," said Susan Jacques, President and CEO, GIA.

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 500 Member companies that span the jewellery supply chain from mine to retail. RJC Members commit to and are independently audited against the RJC Code of Practices – an international standard on responsible business practices for diamonds, gold and platinum group metals. The Code of Practices addresses human rights, labour rights, environmental impact, mining practices, product disclosure and many more important topics in the jewellery supply chain. RJC also works with multi-stakeholder initiatives on responsible sourcing and supply chain due diligence. The RJC's Chain-of-Custody Certification for precious metals supports these initiatives and can be used as a tool to deliver broader Member and stakeholder benefit.

The RJC is a <u>Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance</u> – the global association for sustainability standards. For more information on RJC Members, Certification, and Standards please visit <u>www.responsiblejewellery.com</u>

About Gemological Institute of America, Inc (GIA)

An independent non-profit organization, GIA (Gemological Institute of America), established in 1931, is recognized as the world's foremost authority in gemology. GIA invented the famous 4Cs of Color, Cut, Clarity and Carat Weight in the early 1950s and in 1953, created the International Diamond Grading System[™] which, today, is recognized by virtually every professional jeweler in the world.

Through research, education, gemological laboratory services, and instrument development, the Institute is dedicated to ensuring the public trust in gems and jewelry by upholding the highest standards of integrity, academics, science, and professionalism. Visit www.gia.edu for more information.

RJC Certification Information – GIA (Gemological Institute of America)

RJC Certified Members