

NEWS RELEASE

Embargoed until 20 November 2014

HAMILTON JEWELERS – RE-CERTIFIED BY THE RJC

LONDON - RJC announced today that Hamilton Jewelers, the US – based jewellery retailer, has achieved Re-Certification by meeting the highest ethical, social and environmental standards established by the RJC.

"RJC congratulates Hamilton Jewelers on achieving Re-Certification. Hamilton Jewelers were first certified 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.

"Having undergone an extensive review of business practices, polices, management systems, workplace safety policies, and employment practices, Hamilton has received a Re-Certification from the Responsible Jewellery Council. The RJC is an international body, based in London, which seeks to raise the overall compliance, procedures, and ethics of our industry. In 2012, Hamilton was the first independently owned retailer in the world to achieve RJC Certification, a distinction typically achieved by much larger organizations. Our Re-Certification is once again something that our company is very proud of – as it indicates to the world that we have undergone independent, third-party auditing to show that our business practices throughout our organization are of the highest level. I am honored that, by virtue of this Re-Certification, Hamilton retains its place as one of the premier heritage fine jewelry brands in America that remains family owned. In fact, being certified by the RJC is core to our company's mission to earn the trust of our clients, and to act consistently with our core values of Responsibility and Integrity," says Hank B. Siegel, President, Hamilton Jewelers.

For further information please contact: Madalina Grigorie, Communications Coordinator, Responsible Jewellery Council

Telephone +44 (0)207 321 0992, madalina.grigorie@responsiblejewellery.com

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>

www.responsiblejewellery.com

About Hamilton Jewelers

Founded in Trenton, New Jersey, Hamilton Jewelers was established in 1912, and a legacy of tradition and service began. Irving Siegel, a former errand boy for a similar store, purchased the firm on September 3, 192. He stocked the simplest of items such as silver dresser sets and cigarette lighters to finery ranging from diamonds to pocket watches, all in a small storefront at 122 South Broad Street. Siegel, or "Mr. Irving," as he was known, began with one other employee - his wife Alice. Together, they built a modest business, working every day through the depression to establish themselves in the community. Mr. Siegel's efforts would pay off, as the company would soon become one of the country's leading guild jewelers and has maintained this standing with innovative designs and a passion for exemplary client service. This spirit of service – to clients and community - is the thread that unifies the 3 generations of the Siegel family for over 100 years, in Princeton, NJ and Palm Beach, Florida.

Since the company's beginning, Hamilton Jewelers has always combined the characteristics of an international jeweler with the unique hospitality of a regional family business. This penchant to bring the world's finest offerings in jewels and timepieces to the regional communities was the pioneering tradition that began with Irving and was conveyed to his son, Martin Siegel, now Chairman, who joined the business in 1955. Hank Siegel, the third generation of the family to serve as President of the firm, followed his father Martin's path in 1981 and is now the current President and CEO as appointed in 1992. Hamilton specializes in fine jewelry of their own design and manufacture. Employing old-world techniques with state-of-the-art equipment, master craftsmen create jewelry of exceptional design and quality. Hamilton maintains workshops domestically, and most Hamilton Collections are made in these facilities. The pride of American craftsmanship is a hallmark of Hamilton's product offerings.

RJC Certification Information – Hamilton Jewelers

RJC Certified Members

www.responsiblejewellery.com