



## NEWS RELEASE

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### UK RETAILER ARGOS CERTIFIED BY THE RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL

LONDON - The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) announced today that Argos, the UK's leading Multi-Channel retailer, has achieved certification meeting the ethical, human rights, social and environmental standards as established by the RJC's Member Certification System.

"RJC warmly congratulates Argos on its certification. The successful verification assessment was conducted by Roshini Wickramasinghe from SGS, one of the independent third-party auditing firms accredited to the RJC's Member Certification System," says Michael Rae, RJC's Chief Executive Officer.

"Argos is delighted to become an officially certified member of the Responsible Jewellery Council and believe this reflects our commitment to the principles and guidelines set out by the RJC. As part of our overall commitment to responsible sourcing we are passionate about delivering high standards for our customers in all areas of our sourcing activities, particularly in relation to business ethics, human rights, and social and environmental practices. It is particularly pleasing to be recognised by the RJC for our ongoing work in these areas and this confirmation of Argos' official certification is a source of pride for the teams involved," says Mark Steel, Argos Trading Manager.

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#### About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 350 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 group metals jewellery products. The Council has developed the RJC Member Certification System, a certification system, which will apply to all Members' businesses that contribute to the diamond, gold and platinum group 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 Member Certification System. A full list of its Members can be found on the web at [www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

#### About Argos

Argos is the UK's leading Multi-Channel retailer and provides a highly successful and unique offer of choice and convenience. It sells general merchandise and products for the home from over 750 stores throughout the UK and Republic

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://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.

of Ireland, online, over the telephone and TV. In the financial year to February 2011, Argos sales were £4.2 billion and it employed some 33,000 people across the business.

Argos serves over 130 million customers a year through its stores. On average, 17 million UK households, or around two thirds of the population, have an Argos catalogue at home at any time. Argos' internet site, [www.argos.co.uk](http://www.argos.co.uk), is one of the most visited high street retail websites and Argos continues to be the second largest internet retailer in the UK, with 400m website visits last year.

Argos is part of Home Retail Group, the UK's leading home and general merchandise retailer.



Home Retail Group has been awarded the *Carbon Trust Standard* which certifies that we have genuinely reduced our carbon footprint. We call our responsible approach 'the basis of good business'. Find out more at: [www.thebasisofgoodbusiness.com](http://www.thebasisofgoodbusiness.com)

For more information please contact:

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**[RJC Certified Members](#)**  
**[Argos Limited](#)**

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