



RJC Statement: 2nd December, 2011

RJC Temporarily Suspends Finalisation of the Chain of Custody Standard for Diamonds to Allow for Additional Consultation

RJC Chain of Custody Standard for Gold and Platinum Expected to be Issued in Early 2012, and First Certifications in Second Quarter of 2012

For the past 18 months, the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) has been engaged in an extensive public consultation process investigating how it can assist its Members seeking to utilise chain-of-custody (CoC) certification as a voluntary, complementary element to the RJC Member Certification process. (Full details can be found here: <http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/standards-development/chain-of-custody/>)

RJC initiated this work in the belief that chain-of-custody certification is a tool that can strengthen the integrity of the jewellery supply chain. The RJC initially planned to launch its Chain-of-Custody Standard for gold, platinum group metals and diamonds in 2012.

Some RJC Members in the diamond supply chain recently raised concerns regarding certain specific potential impediments for the implementation of the draft RJC CoC Standard in the diamond supply chain. As a result, the RJC Standards Committee has agreed to temporarily suspend the finalisation of the draft RJC CoC Standard as it applies to diamonds so as to undertake additional consultation with the diamond industry concerning the feasibility of the draft RJC CoC Standard.

The RJC's decision to temporarily suspend finalisation of the CoC Standard for diamonds does not impact the upcoming completion and implementation of the CoC Standard for gold and platinum group metals. The RJC expects to issue the gold and platinum group metals-related CoC Standard in early in 2012 and the first certifications against the standard are expected in the second quarter of 2012. It is anticipated that this CoC Standard will assist companies in the gold jewellery supply chain meet the CoC requirements established by the United States' Dodd-Frank legislation regarding the avoidance of conflict gold.

A sub-committee of the RJC Standards Committee, consisting of Members from all sectors of the diamond jewellery supply chain, has been formed with the objective of consulting further with companies and trade associations in the diamond sector in an effort to resolve the concerns raised. The terms of reference, including the reporting timetable, for the sub-committee are currently being developed and will be posted on the RJC website as soon as they have been completed and formally ratified by the RJC Standards Committee. This is expected to occur in February 2012.

The RJC expects to finalise the CoC Standard for diamonds once the sub-committee has completed its consultations and made its recommendations to the RJC Standards Committee.

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