



Responsible Jewelry Council

NEWS RELEASE

FRED MEYER JEWELERS MAKES COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

Portland, OR – Advancing its commitment to fostering trust and confidence with their customers, last month Fred Meyer Jewelers joined the international trade organization, the Responsible Jewelry Council (RJC).

Building a responsible supply chain from mine to retail, the RJC includes more than 100 members, representing all sectors of the diamond and gold supply chain, trade associations and service providers. Council members must apply the RJC System by upholding the RJC Code of Practices and undergoing third-party auditing to become certified. This unique system builds on recognized international initiatives like the Kimberley Process certification scheme, the International Labour Organisation conventions, SA8000, and the United Nations Global Compact.

"I am delighted that Fred Meyer Jewelers has officially joined the Responsible Jewelry Council. In so doing, they have demonstrated to their suppliers and, most importantly, to US consumers that ethical, responsible business practices continue to be integral to their core business", says Michael Rae, CEO, RJC.

Founded in 1973, Fred Meyer Jewelers is the nation's third largest fine jewelry retailer operating nearly 400 stores in 35 states under the Fred Meyer Jewelers and Littman Jewelers brand names. The stores carry a broad assortment of engagement and wedding rings, fine jewelry for women and men, and brand-name watches. Fred Meyer Jewelers, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fred Meyer Stores, Inc., which was acquired in 1999 by The Kroger Co. (NYSE:KR), one of the nation's largest grocery retailers.

"Safeguarding consumer confidence in jewelry products in my own market here in the United States and worldwide ensures the continued success of our entire industry. We will work with each and every one of our suppliers to ensure responsible business practices remain at the top of their business priorities as well," says Peter Engel, President, Fred Meyer Jewelers.

About RJC -

The Responsible Jewelry Council is an international not-for-profit organisation representing over 100 member companies across the gold and diamond jewelry supply chain.

RJC Members are committed to promoting responsible ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices in a transparent and accountable manner throughout the industry from

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mine to retail. Their commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond and gold jewelry products.

The Council has developed the RJC System, a certification system – which will apply to all Members' businesses that contribute to the diamond and gold jewelry supply chain. Under the RJC system, all Commercial Members of the RJC will be required to be audited by accredited, third party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC's Code of Practices.

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The Responsible Jewelry Council and a full list of its Members can be found on the web at www.responsiblejewellery.com . For further information please contact: Mila Bonini, Communications Manager, +39 02 48002801. Mila.bonini@responsiblejewellery.com

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The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.
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