



Responsible
Jewellery
Council



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Introduction to the Responsible Jewellery Council

Introduction and Agenda

- The key elements of the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC):
 - i. Mission of the RJC
 - ii. Membership
 - iii. Commitment by Members
 - iv. What Does the RJC Do?
 - v. Auditor Accreditation
 - vi. ISEAL Alliance
- RJC Standards and Certification System:
 - vii. The Two RJC Standards: Code of Practices and Chain-of-Custody
 - viii. RJC Code of Practices
 - ix. RJC Chain-of-Custody Standard
 - x. Certification System Elements
- Why Certification?
 - xi. Other sector examples
 - xii. B2B value ... consumer potential

Mission of the RJC



- The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) is an international, not-for-profit standards setting and certification organisation
- Formed in 2005 by a group of 14 leading organisations from a cross section of the diamond and gold jewellery sectors

Vision: *"Our vision is a responsible world-wide supply chain that promotes trust in the global fine jewellery and watch industry"*

Mission: *"We strive to be the recognized standards and certification organization for supply chain integrity and sustainability in the global fine jewellery and watch industry"*

- RJC Certification uses *independent third party auditing to verify that Members of the RJC conform to its standards*
- RJC is involved in a wide range of supply chain sectors from mine to retail, and responsible sourcing initiatives in precious metals and diamonds

RJC Membership



Eligibility: all businesses and associations: **small, medium and large**, participating in the diamond gold and platinum metals jewellery supply chain.

Members commit to seek certification through an independent third party audit against the Code of Practices, ***within two years of joining the RJC.***

RJC has currently over 490 Members and over 320 Certifications have been issued against its standards.

What Does the RJC Do?

- Standards development: researches, writes and develops the certification standards
- Reviews the audit reports and issues Members their certificates
- Accredits audit firms to conduct Member audits according to RJC standards
- Engages stakeholders in the development of standards
- Communications: to Members and stakeholders**
- Training and Capacity Building for Members working towards certification

Auditor Accreditation

- Accreditation reflects the RJC's endorsement of an auditor's *competence, credibility, independence and integrity* in carrying out audits of RJC Members
- Selection criteria includes individual auditor experience in the relevant business sector and *firm's compliance with ISO 17021*
- Individual auditors must take additional *training* on RJC's standards
- Firms providing existing services to Members are encouraged to apply
- *Accreditation reviews are carried out by an independent specialist.*
 - A list of all accredited audit firms can be found on our website:
<http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/auditors/accredited-auditors/>

ISEAL Alliance



RJC is a full Member of the ISEAL Alliance.

ISEAL is the global membership association for sustainability standards. It works to develop and support *credible standards and certification initiatives*.

- As a Full Member, RJC commits to ISEAL's mission and Code of Ethics and complies with ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice
- Membership of ISEAL helps RJC continue to *improve its standards development and implementation*, and share experiences and ideas with other sectors
- ISEAL Members are standards organisations that commit to *transparency, co-operation and good governance* and RJC is delighted to be part of this community

<http://www.isealalliance.org/>

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The Two RJC Standards



1. RJC Code of Practices (COP)

- ✓ Addresses responsible **business practices** including on environmental performance, bribery and corruption & labour and human rights
- ✓ The standard is about the Member **company** – how it runs itself
- ✓ It is **compulsory** for RJC Members

2. Chain-of-Custody Standard (CoC)

- ✓ Addresses flow of gold and platinum group metals through supply chains, including conflict-sensitive sourcing
- ✓ The certificate is about the **material** – are there responsible business practices at each step?
- ✓ It is **Voluntary** for RJC Members



RJC Code of Practices (COP)

- The **COP** covers a *comprehensive spectrum of CSR issues* relevant to the entire jewellery supply chain
- It can be applied by any size of business, in all sectors of the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain, from mining through to retail
- Based on national and international law, established international and industry standards, and sound business practice
- Establishes *objective and verifiable standards* against which RJC Members must be certified



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS



RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAINS & HUMAN RIGHTS



LABOUR RIGHTS & WORKING CONDITIONS



HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT



DIAMONDS, GOLD & PLATINUM GROUP METAL PRODUCTS



RESPONSIBLE MINING SECTOR

Designed to embed Harmonisation: RJC Code of Practices (COP)

RJC has worked to harmonise with a wide range of relevant *certifications, regulation and other standards* such as:

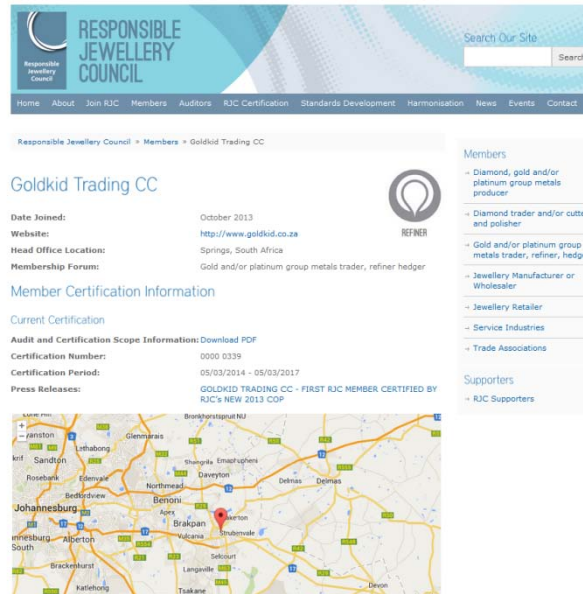
- Due diligence programs e.g. OECD Due Diligence Guidance
- ISO 14001
- SA8000
- Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Guidelines
- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
- Kimberley Process Certification Scheme
- And many others

This provides additional benefit from RJC Certification and reduces audit burden, especially where there are multiple customers/users of this assurance.



Certificate, Logos and Webpage

Certification gives Members the right to use the RJC logo on their website, with their certification available on the RJC website:



With the Certificate and Logos available for use:



Based on the audit findings, certificates are issued to Members for either 3 or 1 year. During the certification period, the Member must address any major non-conformances found by the auditor.

Tools for Members

- RJC has many dedicated materials to support our Members along their journey for COP certification
- RJC offers Member training on a range of topics, including live training, webinars, recorded modules and slide decks
- On the RJC website, there is a library of useful supporting documents including a Standards Guidance, Assessment Manual, Certification Handbook, Assessment Workbook and a Risk-Assessment Toolkit, among others



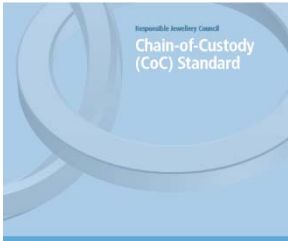
RJC Chain-of-Custody



RJC Chain-of-Custody (CoC) Certification aims to give Members the ability to demonstrate **responsible sourcing** for precious metals.

The CoC program provides a common standard for RJC Members or entities they control, that wish to implement Chain-of-Custody systems and have these independently audited.

- ✓ CoC Certification means that:
 - RJC standards or equivalent for human rights, labour standards, environmental impact, and business ethics have been met right from the origin of the metal
 - Due diligence approaches for mined and recycled gold are aligned to the OECD Due Diligence Guidance
 - Appropriate inventory control systems are in place for CoC material



Certification System Elements:

RJC Code of Practices & Chain-of-Custody



- Step 1** **Self Assessment:** The process begins when the RJC Member carries out a Self Assessment against the applicable Standard
- Step 2** **Certification Audit:** The Member then engages an RJC Accredited Auditor, who conducts an independent Certification Audit. Non-conformances will be noted and the Member will be directed to address them through an appropriate corrective action plan
- Step 3** **Reporting:** The Auditor then provides the RJC and the Member with an Audit Report that documents the audit findings
- Step 4** **Certification Decision:** The RJC reviews the Auditor's Report and the Statement of Conformance. The RJC then issues the Member RJC Certification for the applicable Standard
- Step 5** **Periodic Reviews:** Periodic reviews will be conducted during the certification period, where required. During the Certification Period, a Mid-Term Review (Code of Practices) or Surveillance Audit (Chain of Custody Standard) may be conducted by the RJC Accredited Auditor to verify that the Certified Member's systems continue to work effectively. *At the end of the Certification Period, a Re-Certification Audit is required to renew the Member's Certification*

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Certification in other sectors

Consumer-facing with market share:

- **Forestry:** Forest Stewardship Council ... Etc
- **Fisheries:** Marine Stewardship Council, Aquaculture Stewardship Council
- **Coffee, tea, cocoa:** Fairtrade, Utz Certified, Rainforest Alliance, 4C

Emerging initiatives:

- **Child labour in rug-making in Asia:** Goodweave
- **Oil and gas production:** Equitable Origin
- **Natural ingredients in consumer products:** Union for Ethical Biotrade
- **Sugar production and refining:** Bonsucro

B2B value ... Consumer potential?

- **Common standard** – the RJC system provides the opportunity to reduce duplication through a single, commonly recognised international standard, with compliance verified through independent, third party auditing
 - **Credible System** – designed and operated with best practice standards setting, assurance models and evaluation of program impacts
 - **Support and capacity building** – provided to Members through guidance documents, assessment tools and training
 - **Stakeholder recognition** – RJC standards have strong supply chain support from major companies, and from key NGOs and related initiatives
 - **Cost effective** – the cost of running the standards program is shared by all supply chain participants; large pool of auditors of auditors available.
- *RJC's program focuses on a Business to Business model*
- *With nearly 500 diverse supply chain participants, a consumer facing labelling initiative has not been a priority*

Thank you!



Any questions please contact: training@responsiblejewellery.com
or visit our website at <http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/>

