CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE JEWELLERY SUPPLY CHAIN

The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) is committed to reinforcing consumer and stakeholder confidence in the jewellery supply chain by setting standards for responsible practices and material traceability from mine to retail. As RJC-Accredited Auditors, SGS can verify your compliance and, on successful completion, submit a certification recommendation to RJC.
CERTIFICATION STEPS

Member completes a self-assessment

SGS reviews your nominated scope of certification, standard(s), central policies and procedures and method of implementation.

Based on the above, a sample of operations are selected for visits to verify implementation of your programme and compliance with RJC requirements.

SGS prepares a draft detailed report setting out areas of compliance and good practice as well as any issues that may need to be addressed together with recommendations for continuous improvement.

Discussion of any comments on the report and review of any corrective action plans.

Final report is produced together with a Summary Report and Recommendation for Certification all of which are submitted to the RJC.

RJC reviews the verification file and issues certification as appropriate.

TYPES OF RJC CERTIFICATION

The RJC has developed a Code of Practices which applies to all members’ businesses that contribute to the jewellery supply chain from mine to retail incorporating diamonds, gold and platinum group metals. Under the RJC requirements, all commercial members are required to be audited by accredited, third-party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC’s Code of Practices, and to become certified within two years of joining.

The RJC Code of Practices certification is valid for one or three years depending on the findings. During the verification process, if one or more major non-conformance is identified, members need to prepare effective Corrective Action Plans to rectify the findings, and the RJC may grant certification for one year. In the absence of major non-conformances, the RJC may grant certification for three years. A mid-term review may also be recommended as part of the process where changes to a company’s structure are anticipated or findings need review.

Where companies make provenance claims about their products these can also be reviewed and certified to support their marketing or meet client requirements.

An optional Chain of Custody standard has been developed for gold and precious metals to support claims for responsibly-sourced jewellery materials (known as CoC Material) produced, processed and traded through the jewellery supply chain.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

SGS conducts audits and provides recommendations on the systems you have developed to meet the RJC Code of Practices and, optionally Provenance Claims and Chain of Custody.

With over ten years’ experience of auditing sustainability issues in the diamond and jewellery industry at all levels, SGS auditors know the legal framework that governs these businesses, understand the common issues and industry practices and have seen successful implementation of solutions to meet legal and Code requirements.

Our auditors can also contribute their broader experience of social, environmental and business integrity issues from a wide range of other industries to ensure that decisions are consistently applied and best practices shared.

WHY SGS?

• SGS is the global leader and innovator in verification, testing and certification services.

• SGS is an RJC-accredited certification body with ten years’ experience of sustainability audits in the diamond and jewellery industry.

• SGS auditors have experience of Chain Custody audits in the gold and precious metals sectors and work with a number of programmes and brands to assure the absence of conflict minerals from their supply chains.

• As accredited auditors for a number of programmes, SGS can integrate audits to provide an assessment against multiple criteria in a cost-effective manner.

• SGS can help identify areas of good practice as well as non-conformances and provide input to support sustainable solutions and drive continuous improvement. This can then help companies meet their overall aim of promoting human rights and responsible ethical, social and environmental practices.

CONTACT US:

For more information about RJC, contact us at sas@sgs.com or visit our website www.sgs.com/rjc.

WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE