



JEWELERS OF AMERICA

RESPONSIBLE GOLD POSITION STATEMENT

Jewelers of America members must adhere to our Code of Professional Practices, which includes social and environmental responsible business practices.

Jewelers of America believes that gold should be extracted and processed in a manner that respects the needs of people and the earth.

We believe a commitment to responsible gold must come from every point in the supply chain to ensure that responsible practices are addressed and adhered to. Without the engagement of all segments of our industry, retailers' individual pledges to source responsibly will not be meaningful. With that in mind, we work closely with a wide range of both industry and non-industry stakeholders (including the World Gold Council (WGC), the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), the U.S. Department of State and non-governmental organizations) to support good practices at every level of the gold jewelry supply chain.

Jewelers of America co-founded the RJC, which has created a worldwide diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewelry supply chain system for companies in all sectors, from mining through to retail. RJC completed its work on mining standards and officially launched its system in 2009. In March 2012, the RJC launched its Chain-of-Custody (CoC) Standard for the precious metals supply chain. It is applicable to gold and platinum group metals.

JA also participates in and supports initiatives such as the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) and the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA), as well as cross-sector work that is being done to develop responsibly sourced supply chains for gold and other minerals.

ARTISANAL GOLD MINING

Jewelers of America applauds initiatives designed to improve the lives of artisanal gold miners, their families and communities. These include the efforts of the Fairtrade International (FLO) and ARM, who developed a system for independent, third-party certification for gold in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) communities. In April 2013, the two organizations ended their formal partnership and began to phase out the dual Fairtrade and Fairmined hallmarks, which had been used to communicate gold mined with these standards. Moving forward, labeling for gold will include either the Fairtrade (FLO) or Fairmined (ARM) label.

INDIVIDUAL MINING PROJECTS

Jewelers of America does not take positions on individual mining projects. We do support broadly agreed-on standards for the responsible sourcing of minerals, as well as transparent, third-party verification to ensure those standards are being met. We also monitor important projects in the industry, such as the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska. In order for the project to move forward, it must first undergo a lengthy approval process, with more than 70 permits required. In April 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency



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(EPA) released a revised draft assessment outlining the potential negative impacts that development of the mine could have on the Bristol Bay wild salmon fishery. EPA's goal is to finalize the assessment in 2013 after reviewing additional feedback. Based on this science-based assessment, the EPA could decide to use its authority under Section 404c of the Clean Water Act to restrict the disposal of mine waste into rivers, streams, lakes or wetlands. JA will continue to monitor the proposed mine. We support adherence to the highest possible standards, due process that includes a science-based approach and transparency with regard to potential approval.