



JEWELERS OF AMERICA

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE USE OF GRADING REPORTS

Jewelers of America advocates the highest possible ethical, social and environmental standards in the diamond and jewelry trade and among its members.

Jewelers of America Members must adhere to the JA Code of Professional Practices, which includes a commitment to fully and accurately disclose the material characteristics of the products and merchandise they sell. This includes products that are sold with grading reports. This provision in the JA Code is in accordance with the [Federal Trade Commission Guides](#) for the Jewelry, Precious Metals, and Pewter Industries.

Diamond grading reports from gemological laboratories are a *subjective* tool to help enhance the jewelry sales process. Even with technological advances to improve grading, it is important that the subjective nature of reports be stressed to consumers. They provide third-party assurances to a buyer that a particular stone was examined by gemological experts and can be used to support claims, such as quality factors – like color, clarity, cut and carat weight – made at the point of purchase. A grading report is ***not a certificate nor a guarantee*** and should never be represented as such to a potential buyer. A grading report is also not an appraisal and should not be used to determine the price of a stone.

Jewelers of America recommends JA Members adopt clear processes related to the use of grading reports. This includes:

- strict adherence to Federal Trade Commission guidelines;
- undertaking gemology training;
- carrying out appropriate due diligence before accepting a grading report from any laboratory, which can include assessing the lab (such as its history, reputation, and other factors) and taking steps to ensure the accuracy of the report (such as having gemology experts on staff);
- and sharing knowledge about reports with customers.

Jewelers of America also advises our members to work with their suppliers to ensure that all gemstone and jewelry products – including diamonds – are described accurately at every level of the distribution chain with disclosure of all relevant information in accordance with [Federal Trade Commission Guidelines](#).