

Transparency Guidelines for the Commercialization of Gemological Materials



Fig. 2 Rinaldo Cusi (Associazione Italiana Gemmologi) speaks at the Round Table at Sapienza University in Rome. Introduced by Giovanni B. Andreozzi (Department of Earth Sciences - Sapienza University of Rome), the other authors and presenters of the Guidelines are left to right Arduino Zappaterra (CNA), Rocco Gay (International Colored Gemstones Association), Antonello Donini (CISGEM), Loredana Prosperi (Istituto Gemmologico Italiano), Eugenio Scandale (Accademia Pugliese delle Scienze), Paolo Minieri (IGR - Italian Gemological Review), Gennaro Mincione (Oromare).

Introduction and objectives

The undersigned is committed to applying the procedures outlined in this document in order to implement them with professionalism and transparency and to protect the entire supply chain, particularly the consumer. These procedures are based on responsible principles, particularly in the accurate representation of gemmological materials.

Scope

This document is designed for voluntary adoption by participating parties whenever transactions and promotional/advertising communications involve gemmological materials. Participants also advocate for the application of this document throughout the entire supply chain, both upstream and downstream.

Regulatory sources

This document is inspired by the following regulatory sources:

UNI (Italian Standards Institute):

- Standard 10245 Rev.2019 (Gemmological Materials: Nomenclature);
- Standard 10173 Rev.2019 (Gemmological Materials -

Typological Classification of Cut);

- Standard 9758 Rev.2021 (Diamond - Terminology, Classification, Characteristics and Test Methods);
- Standard 1608857/2021 (Synthetic diamond - Terminology, classification, characteristics and test methods).

CIBJO (International Confederation of Jewelry, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones):

- "The Pearl Book";
- "The Gemstone Book";
- "The Diamond Book";
- "The Coral Book";
- "The Precious Metals Book".

LMHC (Laboratory Manual Harmonization Committee):
General Report Information: Fact Sheets #1 through #13.

ICA (International Colored Gemstone Association): Code of Ethics, Section I, General Guidelines.

RJC (Responsible Jewelry Council): Code of Practices.

These regulatory sources may be revised and updated periodically. It is recommended that versions later than those listed on their respective websites are checked out.

Fields containing gemmological information

Fields containing essential information about the gemmological characteristics of the materials covered by this document include:

1. Mineral species, variety, group (if the mineral species is not identifiable); (e.g., group: garnet; species: grossular; variety: tsavorite).
2. Source: natural (geological process) or man-made (industrial or laboratory process).
3. Treatment Indications: any indication of treatment and, when possible, the type of treatment and its stability over time.
4. Mass: expressed in metric carats to two decimal places.
5. Type and shape of cut.
6. Dimensions: expressed in millimeters to two decimal places.
7. Traceability: Indicate where sourced (where possible).

The information should be provided using the nomenclature specified in the previous section. Ambiguous and conflicting terms (e.g. “string of natural cultured pearls”) should not be used. Information should be provided if the gemmological material requires special care or maintenance.

Information to be provided with each transaction

Transactions will be executed with the information necessary for commercial practice, concisely indicating: mineral species (if applicable, otherwise the group); variety; origin (natural or artificial); treatment indications; mass. Upon customer request, they may be accompanied by a separate statement specifying fields 1 to 7 in addition to commercial documents. In the case of transactions involving gems, gem lots, or high-value jewelry pieces, it is recommended, for the buyer’s protection and the undersigned’s lack of adequate instrumentation, that transactions occur with the issuance of an extensive gemmological analysis report issued by recognized laboratories. This report should contain the fields mentioned in the preceding paragraph, along with photos and additional annotations if necessary.

Correct terminology of the analysis document

The term “certificate” should not be used to refer to the analysis documents of the gemmological materials, as these are third-party verification documents or professional opinions produced by gemmological laboratories. The following wording should be used: “gemmological analysis



Fig. 3 Italian universities have been raising public awareness about ethical issues related to gemstones for years. As early as 2011, the University of Naples Orientale promoted a scientific debate on the implementation of the Kimberley Process.

documents issued by qualified laboratories or qualified professionals”.

Lots

In cases where transactions involve lots of homogeneous stones or, when mixed, multiple gemmological materials of the same species or different species, the overall value will be considered as unitary. The minimum and maximum sizes with the overall mass will be indicated. The number of pieces will be specified if possible.

Set gems

In cases where transactions involve stones mounted on jewelry pieces, the document will include data on the entire piece of jewelry, including the metal, and the mass of the stones will be estimated by calculation (or the actual mass will be reported if possible).

Updates

Participants are required to ensure that their technical-scientific training and that of all personnel involved in the marketing of gemmological materials is consistently kept up to date. Updates will be facilitated through training courses, seminars, and meetings organized jointly by all relevant categories at both the national and local levels, in collaboration with universities and major gemmological institutes.