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Artisanal and small-scale gold mining standard officially recognised

24 September 2014 | By [Melissa Massey](#)

The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) and the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) announced yesterday that Fairmined Standard v.2.0 is now a recognised responsible mining standard under the RJC Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard for precious metals.

This recognition aims to incentivise artisanal miners to become certified under the Fairmined Standard and serves to help mitigate raised concerns that downstream supply chain participants may avoid Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM).

Alliance for Responsible Mining executive director Lina Villa-Cordoba said: "The RJC recognition of the Fairmined Standard opens up important market possibilities for the Fairmined certified miners and the industry.

"We are very pleased the efforts of the miners are recognised and invite RJC members to further support the miners by joining the Fairmined initiative through our different sourcing models."

The Fairmined Standard now provides brands with three different innovative sourcing models: Labeled, Incorporated and Fairmined certificates.

In cooperation with ARM, the RJC conducted a review of the comparability of the RJC Code of Practices standard and the Fairmined standard.

Responsible Jewellery Council Standards director Fiona Solomon said: "RJC is pleased that this recognition under the CoC standard can help further promote certification of ASM producers and enhance market access with RJC CoC Certified refiners."

The analysis was reviewed by the RJC Standards Committee in September 2014 and the Committee agreed to formally recognise the Fairmined Standard v.2.0 as a 'Recognised Responsible Mining Standard' under the RJC CoC Standard.

When gold is sourced from certified Artisanal and Small-scale miners under RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification, it will become part of a 'CoC gold' stream.

Claims around the gold being certified as Fairmined cannot automatically be made and for claims to be made, the requirements of the Fairmined System must be met.

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