

The WGDE recognises:

- ◆ that there is a need for a comprehensive differentiation between diamonds and laboratory-grown diamonds in order to ensure consumer protection against misrepresentation and mis-selling;
- ◆ that the sustainable development of the diamond industry is threatened by the accidental and/or fraudulent selling of undisclosed laboratory-grown diamonds as natural diamond;
- ◆ the eradication of the accidental and/or fraudulent selling of laboratory-grown diamonds as natural diamonds requires enhanced legislative, regulatory & administrative procedures put in place by Members.

The WGDE recalls:

- ◆ the Administrative decision on the ***“Use of Unified Diamond Nomenclature and Terminology as a Best Practice”*** adopted at the Kimberley Process Plenary meeting in November 2018, to promote a unified diamond nomenclature and encouraging full, fair and effective use of a clear and accessible terminology by all participants of the diamond sector.

The WGDE notes:

- ◆ the updated Harmonized System administered by the World Customs Organization (WCO) that introduces 6-digit Commodity Codes for laboratory-grown diamonds as a result of the request from the Kimberley Process, which will come into force on January 1, 2022.

The WGDE welcomes:

- ◆ the critical contribution provided by the ASSURE Programme to the differentiation between diamonds and laboratory-grown diamonds;
- ◆ the willingness of traders, manufacturers, retailers, bourses and state law-enforcement authorities to prevent undisclosed laboratory-grown diamonds from illegal mixing with diamonds.

The WGDE recommends that all Participants:

- ◆ are able to consistently & reliably differentiate between diamonds and laboratory-grown diamonds;
- ◆ use diamond verification instruments that have been awarded the ASSURE TESTED MARK; to continue ensuring diamond pipeline integrity.

Agreed by the WGDE, 2021 KP Plenary, 9th November, 2021

Members:

Angola - Australia – Botswana – Brazil – Canada – P.R. China – D.R. Congo – EU – Ghana – India – Israel – Lesotho - Liberia – Namibia (Vice Chair) – Russian Federation – Sierra Leone – South Africa – Tanzania - United Arab Emirates – United States of America – Ukraine – Zimbabwe – Civil Society Coalition - World Diamond Council (Chair)

Observers:

Switzerland – United Kingdom



WGDE TECHNICAL GUIDELINE No. 16:

DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN NATURAL & LABORATORY-GROWN DIAMONDS



About ASSURE Programme

- ◆ The ASSURE Programme is an ongoing testing initiative aimed at safeguarding the diamond trade from undisclosed laboratory-grown diamonds by ensuring the trade is fully informed of the relative performance of diamond verification instruments, also known as laboratory-grown diamond screening or detection devices.
- ◆ The ASSURE Programme is partnered with the manufacturers of diamond verification instruments to continuously assess those instruments capabilities to separate and/or identify natural diamonds from laboratory-grown diamonds, by subjecting them to rigorous, transparent and standardized tests.
- ◆ The testing is performed by independent third-party laboratories against a unique common sample set and in pursuance with a universal standard detailing the methods and protocols used to conduct the tests.
- ◆ The test results are published in the ASSURE Directory that contains the independent third-party verified performance of Diamond Verification Instruments participating and is regularly updated as new instruments are submitted for testing or re-testing.
- ◆ The instruments submitted by the ASSURE Partners are issued with the ASSURE TESTED mark which gives assurance to the trade that the test results are robust and reliable. The ASSURE TESTED mark certifies the test results, not the instrument, assisting to identify and select an adequate device most closely meeting the requirements of the user.
- ◆ More information can be found at <https://www.naturaldiamonds.com/council/assure-testing-program/>

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Observers:

Switzerland – United Kingdom