

Administrative Decision on the Use of Unified Diamond Nomenclature and Terminology as a Best Practice

The Plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process,

Recognizing the importance of promoting a unified diamond nomenclature and encouraging full, fair and effective use of a clear and accessible terminology by all participants of the diamond sector for the purpose of comprehensive differentiation between diamond and synthetic (laboratory grown) diamond markets,

Noting with concern an increase in illegal mixing of synthetic (laboratory grown) diamonds with diamonds that threatens sustainable development of the diamond industry, while the majority of national jurisdictions lack unified nomenclature and regulation on mandatory disclosure of synthetic (laboratory-grown) diamonds,

Recalling the importance of the work within the Kimberley Process on preventing the circumvention of the Kimberley Process requirements by illicitly declaring rough diamonds as synthetic (laboratory grown) rough diamonds,

Noting the diamond industry initiative to develop a single reference document, when referring to diamonds and synthetic (laboratory grown) diamonds, that is built on international practice and aimed at providing effective public information to ensure the integrity of the diamond product and strengthen consumer confidence,

encourages all the Participants and Observers of the Kimberley Process,

1. *to take note of* the annexed Diamond Terminology Guideline (DTG) of 22 January 2018 presented as best practice for the industry;
2. *to notice, as appropriate,* the DTG as a reference document establishing terminology for diamonds, synthetic (laboratory grown) diamonds and imitations of diamonds for the industry;
3. *to promote, as appropriate,* the DTG as a guideline to comply with on all commercial documents, websites and other means of communication that are intended to e.g. sell, buy and promote diamonds, synthetic (laboratory grown) diamonds, gemstones, gemmological laboratory reports, diamond jewellery and synthetic (laboratory grown) diamond jewellery, where such issues occur.

DIAMOND TERMINOLOGY GUIDELINE

INTRODUCTION AND REFERENCE

Nine of the leading diamond industry organisations (**AWDC, CIBJO, DPA, GJEPC, IDI, IDMA, USJC, WDC** and **WFDB**) have developed the present guideline to encourage full, fair and effective use of a clear and accessible terminology for diamonds, synthetic diamonds and imitations of diamonds by all sector bodies, organisations and traders.

This **Diamond Terminology Guideline** serves as a reference document for the diamond and jewellery trade when referring to diamonds and synthetic diamonds. It is built on two internationally accepted standards: the **ISO 18323 Standard** (“Jewellery – Consumer confidence in the diamond industry”) and the **CIBJO Diamond Blue Book**.

DEFINITIONS

- A **diamond** is a **mineral created by nature**; a “**diamond**” always means a **natural diamond**.
- A **synthetic diamond** is an **artificial product** that has essentially the same physical characteristics as a **diamond**.
- An **imitation diamond**, also named a **diamond simulant**, is an **artificial product** that imitates the appearance of diamonds without having their chemical composition, physical properties or structure.
- A **gemstone** is a **mineral of natural origin** that is used in jewellery for reasons of combined beauty, rareness and intrinsic value.

TERMINOLOGY

- **When referring to synthetic diamonds:**
 - **Use one of the following authorised qualifiers when referring to synthetic diamonds:** “synthetic”, “laboratory-grown” or “laboratory-created”.
 - **Do not use abbreviations** such as “lab-grown” and “lab-created”.
 - **Do not use the following terms:** “cultured diamonds” and “cultivated diamonds” as “cultured” and “cultivated” refer exclusively to organic/biogenic products.
 - **Do not use the following terms:** “real”, “genuine”, “precious”, “authentic” and “natural” as those apply exclusively to natural minerals and gemstones.

RECOMMENDATION

- **A diamond is natural by definition. Therefore, use the word “diamond” without a qualifier when referring to a diamond.** If differentiation from synthetic diamonds is required, use the term “natural diamonds” as term of equivalent meaning.
- **Do not use the following confusing expressions:** “natural treated diamonds” and “treated natural diamonds”. Instead, simply use “treated diamonds”.

WHEN AND WHERE TO USE THE DIAMOND TERMINOLOGY GUIDELINE

- The leadership of AWDC, CIBJO, DPA, GJEPC, IDI, IDMA, USJC, WDC and WFDB strongly recommend all traders, sector bodies and other organisations to comply with the guideline on all commercial **documents, websites and other means of communication** that are

intended to e.g. **sell, buy and promote** diamonds, synthetic diamonds, gemstones, gemmological laboratory reports, diamond jewellery and synthetic diamond jewellery.

22 January 2018