



*Certified*  
**SUSTAINABILITY RATED  
DIAMOND**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**SCS-007 Jewelry Sustainability Standard Series**

**Sustainability Rated Diamonds  
(Standard for Trial Use)**

Applicable to Industrial Scale Mining and Laboratory Grown  
Diamond Production Operations, Recycled Diamonds and the  
Diamond Chain of Custody

## **Sustainability Rated Diamonds (Standard for Trial Use)**

This is the first in a series of standards to address gemstones and precious metals used in jewelry applications.

SCS Standards Development wishes to thank the chairman and members of the multistakeholder Standard Development Committee for their steadfast efforts to develop a comprehensive, practical standard that can be applied successfully by companies across the gemstone-quality natural and laboratory grown diamond sectors. Recognizing that the logistical, traceability, social, environmental and governance issues in the international diamond industry are quite complex, the Committee demonstrated a clear commitment to considering the views of all stakeholders in order to build strong consensus positions, consistent with international norms and laws, while simultaneously building on existing initiatives, encouraging best practice, and providing a clear path for continuous improvement.

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## Executive Summary

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Consumers are more environmentally and socially conscious than ever before, and are exercising their power and voice through the products they purchase and use. While still juggling convenience, price and awareness along with their desire to better the world, they're looking for companies to step up as partners in their quest to do good. This shift in consumer values has been increasingly transforming consumer products.

The groundbreaking *SCS-007 Sustainability Rated Diamonds Standard for Trial Use* brings these consumer priorities to the forefront as the first in a series of standards aimed at enabling the luxury jewelry market to become an international leader in true sustainability. This Standard establishes a credible basis for:

- independently assessing and certifying the environmentally and socially responsible production and handling of gemstone-quality diamonds;
- confirming efforts to achieve climate neutrality and net zero impacts across the board; and
- accurately tracking certified diamonds through the entire chain of custody to provide unprecedented origin assurance, and to prevent the types of fraud and abuse that have dogged the industry in the past.

Currently published as a *Standard for Trial Use*, the Standard is technically complete and ready for marketplace use, while still allowing the flexibility to clarify requirements as needed following actual use.

The Standard applies to both industrial-scaled mined (ISM) and laboratory grown (LGD) diamonds, providing a level playing field in order to satisfy consumer demand across the spectrum of natural and laboratory grown diamond choices. The Standard also applies to cutters, polishers, jewelry manufacturers, and recycled diamond handlers, as well as diamond retailers who sell Certified Diamonds directly to consumers. Producers and handlers who meet the requirements of the Standard are accredited. In addition, diamond testing and grading companies involved in assuring diamond traceability must be accredited for the independent assessments they provide.

The requirements of the Standard revolve around five pillars of sustainability:

- 1) **Verified Origin Traceability** – Aimed at providing more than 99% accuracy in assuring the origin of each diamond from producer to point of sale.
- 2) **Ethical Stewardship** – Diamond producers and handlers adhere to stringent environmental and social responsibility requirements aligned with the most rigorous internationally recognized norms of business integrity.
- 3) **Climate Neutrality** – Diamond producers are required to meet milestones of Climate Neutrality, mitigating or offsetting both their current annual climate pollutants and past “legacy” greenhouse gas emissions that remain in the atmosphere and continue to impact the climate.

- 4) **Sustainable Production Practices** – Diamond producers are required to achieve quantitatively measurable “net-zero” sustainability goals by avoiding, eliminating or offsetting any impacts associated with the production life cycle over designated time periods.
- 5) **Sustainability Investments** – A portion of fees are directed toward uplifting artisanal and small-scale miners (ASM) and other vulnerable communities, and supporting net-zero goals through efforts that clean the air, protect the climate and protect endangered watersheds and ecosystems.

Sustainability rated diamonds earn their rating based on performance under these pillars.

In addition, the Standard prescribes detailed requirements to assure truthfulness and transparency in business-to-business and business-to-consumer assertions and claims.

### **Interested in learning more?**

Visit us at [www.SCSStandardsDevelopment.org](http://www.SCSStandardsDevelopment.org). For more information on the SCS-007 Sustainability Rated Diamonds Standard, visit us at <https://www.scsglobalservices.com/standards/scs-007-sustainability-rated-diamonds>.

