

## CIBJO recommends new definition of ‘recycled gold’ for use by global jewellery and watch industry

---



MILAN, ITALY: MARCH 18, 2025 – The World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) is recommending a new definition of “recycled gold” to be used in the jewellery and watch sectors, so as to provide greater clarity and consistency both within the industry and marketplace. CIBJO will henceforth include the definition in the guidance documents it produces.

The definition, which covers recycled materials recovered during manufacturing and fabrication processes before being sold to consumers, and also gold recovered from materials after they have been sold to consumers, was developed through extensive discussions among industry experts. It is designed to set stricter criteria for secondary and circular gold supplies, and aims to improve the identification of inputs and outputs in the gold refining and fabrication processes, as well promoting transparent and responsible sourcing.

**The full text of the new definition is attached to the press release.**

CIBJO acknowledged the contribution made by the International Standardisation Organization (ISO) in creating a draft of the definition, as part of a wider standard ISO was developing for responsibly sourced gold, a project in which CIBJO was an active participant.

“There has been growing confusion about the different names and labels for re-refined gold,” explained CIBJO President Gaetano Cavaliere. “The new definition provides a clear statement and set of criteria for recycled gold, which is more stringent than definitions for many other materials. The industry needs a clearer definition to avoid consumer confusion and greenwashing, and to enhance trading practices and supply chain transparency.”

The new definition has already being accepted as a substantial improvement by leading jewellery industry participants and associations, and key industry bodies like the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) and the World Gold Council (WGC) are considering how to incorporate the main elements of this definition into their guidance and responsible sourcing practices. For its part, the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) has already included a definition based on the same criteria in its updated Chain of Custody standard.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Steven Benson

+972-52-280-2322

[communications\\_1@cibjo.org](mailto:communications_1@cibjo.org)

**The World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO)** is the international jewellery confederation of national trade organisations. CIBJO's purpose is to encourage harmonisation, promote international cooperation in the jewellery industry and to consider issues which concern the trade worldwide. CIBJO's chief mission is to protect consumer confidence in the industry. The World Jewellery Confederation is the sole jewellery industry organisation to have Special Consultative Status with the United Nation's Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) and is a member of the UN Global Compact.

## RECOMMENDED DEFINITION FOR RECYCLED GOLD

Recycled gold is

- I) Pre-consumer recycled gold OR
- II) Post-consumer recycled gold OR
- III) A mixture of both.

*Recycled gold* excludes gold in investment product form (e.g. bullion bars and investment coins (unless that gold is entirely produced from Pre-Consumer/Post-Consumer recycled gold).

### **Pre-consumer recycled gold**

*Pre-consumer recycled gold* is gold obtained by refining materials generated during a manufacturing or fabrication process.

This includes melted scraps, sweeps, solutions, wastewater treatments, as well as manufactured materials, products, components and alloys which are no longer required, or which can no longer be used for their original purpose. Scraps and materials refined within the organization which generated them can be qualified as pre-consumer recycled gold only if all the starting scraps and materials are already 'pre-consumer recycled gold'.

### **Post-consumer recycled gold**

*Post-consumer recycled gold* is a gold obtained by refining products sourced from individuals, organisations or industrial facilities in their role as end-users of the products which are no longer required or desired, or can no longer be used for their original purpose.

This includes jewellery products and components, electronic and industrial components, dental scrap, numismatic/collectable coins (but not investment coins), decorative products, plated materials/coatings, spent solutions, as well as returns of products by participants in the gold supply chain (e.g. excess inventory from wholesalers, retailers...).

Please note that this definition (or something very similar) will be incorporated into the next update of CIBJO's *Precious Metals Blue Book*<sup>1</sup> and will also apply to other precious metals<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Precious Metals Book*, compiled and administered by the CIBJO Precious Metals Commission.

<sup>2</sup> 'Precious metals' in this context refers to gold (Au), silver (Ag), platinum (Pt), palladium (Pd), rhodium (Rh), Iridium (Ir), Ruthenium (Ru) and osmium (Os); the definition of *recycled* will be applicable unless a justification for its exclusion is stated in the updated Precious Metals Book.