

# Jewellery Council of SA (JCSA) update

TOP OF MIND FOR MANY RIGHT NOW IS Jewellery Africa 2023. We are excited to be offering an opportunity for our industry to meet up from all corners of the country for the first time since 2019.

The show will be held from 3-4 September 2023 at the Wanderers Club in Illovo, Johannesburg, on a smaller scale. We believe that this new venue will bring a newness and freshness to the show. All space has been sold out.

It's time to start building the blocks of Jewellery Africa and bring back a weekend during the year for the jewellery industry to network, build relationships and do business.

For out-of-towners, the Marriott Hotel Wanderers Hotel is directly across the parking lot.

To start off the two-day show, we will be offering a Business Breakfast on the first morning, sponsored by Rand Refinery, one of the largest integrated, single-site precious metals refining and smelting complexes in the world.

We extend our thanks to our other sponsor, Brinks SA, for its continued support of the JCSA and our projects.

On legislative matters, members were made aware that the Mining Charter no longer applies to the jewellery industry. The Precious Metals Act, however, does still apply and in this regard, the council passed on a simplified list of licence application requirements received from the SA Diamond and Precious Metals Regulator.

The JCSA assists members with challenges they may experience with permit, refining and beneficiation applications.

Consumer confidence is an important aspect for jewellers to consider. It is not addressed in the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) and, as such, we have encouraged jewellers, as suppliers, to consider the relationships they have with their customers, specifically on issues such as whether to allow returns, give credits or offer refunds.

The council provides our jewellers with consumer education brochures to help educate

customers and recently also recirculated the CPA guidelines to ensure that jewellers are aware of legislation regarding these matters.

We also offer a service to members and consumers in the unlikely event of a dispute arising. This mediatory services allows the parties to reach agreements without having to go through expensive legal channels.

The JCSA also recently distributed an alert received from local and international sources that diamonds circulating in the market as certified stones with laboratory certificates have, in fact, been found to be laboratory-grown.

While the council supports the sale of lab-grown diamonds, we have advised members that non-disclosure is

fraudulent and that the onus is on them to ensure that they do not sell undisclosed lab-grown stones. If members sell diamonds as natural ones, they need to ensure that they are indeed natural, rather than relying purely on warranties from suppliers.

The council is in the process of creating a recommended practice relating to simulants and lab-grown diamonds

in respect of terminology, disclosure, responsibility, valuations, certifications, etc. We are calling on members to provide their input.

For members selling to tourists who claim VAT refunds when leaving the country, the SA Revenue Service appointed a new service provider on 1 April this year to administer the VAT refund system at various exits points from the country. This information was shared and included contact details of the relevant parties.

Of utmost importance is the fact that crime-related incidents have increased. We therefore advised members that it was imperative that we work together to report such incidents to our networks and also provided pertinent information and useful images. The information included the facts that the second half of the year is historically a time of higher risk, as are the hours of 11am-2pm and 8-9pm. High-risk days of the week are Sundays (when there is less traffic, providing easier getaways for armed robbers) and Thursdays.

The JCSA has arranged for 10 manufacturing companies to exhibit at New York Now in August. Their trip will be fully sponsored by the Department of Trade, Industry & Competition, including flights, accommodation, meals and a fully furnished stand.

The AGOA agreement between the USA and SA allows us to export to the USA duty-free and VAT-free.

At the recent AGM, members agreed that the name of the council, which will remain a non-profit company, be changed to include other important sectors such as metal refiners.

This decision has come at a time when the JCSA has needed to decide on its future longevity due to financial constraints. By including other important sectors in a representative body, more contributors will have a bigger voice with more resources, especially when addressing important issues with government.

The Mining Qualification Authority (MQA) has authorised the development of the following skills programmes:

1. Tube Gemstone Jewellery-Setter – completed
2. Channel Gemstone Jewellery-Setter – completed
3. Pave Gemstone Jewellery-Setter – completed
4. Castings Cleaner and Basic Jewellery Manufacturer
5. Wax Casting Mould-Maker
6. Master Moulder (reproduction, mass production)
7. Small Business Diamond Processor
8. Laser Diamond-Cutter
9. Lapidary

Any members wishing to participate in the development of these skills are invited to contact the JCSA.

For further information on any of the above topics, please e-mail us at: [admin@jewellery.org.za](mailto:admin@jewellery.org.za). We welcome any input and ideas!

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JEWELLERY AFRICA 2023

