

## THE 5TH C

The 5th C is often mentioned today and generally stands for Certification.

It can also be taken to meaning the Confidence instilled through the use of Certification.

## CERTIFICATION

In today's Diamond market where everything, from Natural to Synthetic, Simulated, Colour or Clarity Enhanced and more recently Conflict Diamonds, is likely to be encountered, Certificates issued by qualified Diamond Grading Laboratories or other recognised bodies can provide peace of mind both for the Consumer and for the Retailer.

Certificates or Reports, as they are also referred to, are issued with Diamonds for the purpose of assuring either their Quality or their Origin.

### DIAMOND GRADING CERTIFICATES

A Diamond Grading Certificate or Report is a certified document issued by one of a number of recognized Diamond Grading Laboratories.

Diamond Grading Laboratories such as those of the GIA, AGS, HRD, IGI, EGL and others, use the latest technology to assess the nature, quality and condition of a finished, polished Diamond. Most certificates generally include an analysis of each of the 4 C's, together with a clarity diagram or 'plot' showing the position of any flaws or imperfections. Some laboratories also provide an analysis of the Light Performance as well as a laser inscription of the number of the certificate or report on the girdle of the Diamond for identification purposes.

### CONFLICT DIAMONDS

Conflict Diamonds are diamonds which are illegally traded to fund conflict in war-torn areas, particularly in central and western Africa. These diamonds are sometimes referred to as 'blood diamonds'. In order to assure that Diamonds are 'Conflict-Free' two principal types of certificate are being employed.

### CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN

In this case Individual Diamonds are tracked and audited from rough through to the finished polished stage. Each Diamond is then supplied with an accompanying certificate stating the country in which it has been Mined, Cut and Polished. Typically the Diamond will have a corresponding serial number Laser Inscribed on its Girdle.

### KIMBERLEY PROCESS CERTIFICATES

The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme ( KPCS ) is a voluntary system established in 2002, which imposes extensive regulatory requirements on its participants in order to certify that shipments of rough diamonds are conflict free. The scheme, which is rigidly monitored, effectively prevents all KPCS participants from any form of trade in rough diamonds with any non-participating country. There are currently around 70 participating countries involved in the scheme, including Israel, the United States and members of the European Community.



