

Jewelers of America Summary of The Kimberley Process

Definition of Conflict Diamonds

Conflict diamonds are rough diamonds illegally traded by rebels to fund armed conflicts with legitimate governments . Though most of the conflicts that originally sparked public awareness of the problem in 1999 have ended (such as those in Sierra Leone and Angola), there are still a few trouble spots in Africa where conflicts continue and some diamonds are involved.

The Kimberley Process (KP)

The Kimberley Process, adopted in 2002, regulates 99% of the rough diamond trade worldwide, through a system of import/export controls that prevents conflict diamonds from entering the legitimate supply chain. Key industry representatives, including JA, worked with governments and human rights groups (often called non-governmental organizations, or NGOs) around the world to bring about this solution to the conflict diamond problem. KP is supported and mandated by the United Nations. Today, 69 participating nations and the worldwide diamond industry uphold KP regulations, along with help from NGOs.

How KP Works

Each of the KP countries is legally bound to export all shipments of rough diamonds in a tamper-resistant, sealed container, along with a government-validated Kimberley Process certificate that includes a list of its contents. No uncertified shipments of rough diamonds are permitted to enter any KP country.

How the Industry Supports KP – the System of Warranties

The World Diamond Council System of Warranties is a program of self regulation that tracks diamonds, after KP certifies them, through the supply chain. The System of Warranties requires all diamond suppliers and diamond jewelry manufacturers to pass on a warranty statement each time diamond goods change hands, assuring the next buyer the diamonds originated within the KP system. It reads:

The diamonds herein invoiced have been purchased from legitimate sources not involved in funding conflict and in compliance with United Nations Resolutions. The seller hereby guarantees that these diamonds are conflict free, based on personal knowledge and/or written guarantees provided by the supplier of these diamonds.

Further Information

Information regarding the Kimberley Process can be found at the Jewelers of America website, www.jewelers.org or at www.diamondfacts.org, a World Diamond Council website. Information can also be requested from JA at 800-223-0673.

