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भारतीय मानक प्रारूप

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Draft Indian Standard

Consumer confidence in the diamond industry

ICS 39.060

Precious Metal Sectional Committee, MTD 10.	Last date of comment: 17/09/2025

Foreword

Formal clauses will be added later

A diamond is a mineral; it forms and grows under natural geological processes.

The Jewellery industry relies upon product integrity and transparency for consumers to have confidence in the products that they are buying. Consumers will not always have the technical expertise to understand the exact provenance and processing of a diamond and as a result are reliant upon labelling and product descriptions as well as guidance from the individual seller.

The recent development of new technologies in the diamond industry has provided consumers with greater availability of Laboratory - Grown Diamond which are produced in a factory or laboratory. They have essentially the same chemical composition and physical (including optical) properties as a diamond and essentially the same crystal structure but due to the growth environment, differences in the growth structure take place at the atomic level.

A major concern held by the diamond industry is that without clear and accurate labelling, the increased availability of Laboratory - Grown diamonds to consumers may cause confusion over exactly what type of product is being sold to them. While the provenance and labelling of a diamond is widely understood, the consumer will be less familiar with the variety of terms that have been used by sellers to describe laboratory grown-diamonds.

The diamond industry is concerned that a consumer may inadvertently buy a laboratory- grown diamond or other product believing it to be a diamond and similarly, the laboratory - grown diamond industry (laboratory -grown diamond growers) does not want its products to be seen as a cheap alternative to a diamond or as a product that consumers will only buy if they are not fully aware of its provenance.

Considering that laboratory - grown diamonds are nowadays set in Jewellery pieces it is therefore in the interests of both sectors of the market that consumers are able to make informed purchasing decisions.

This document is specifically designed to be understood by the consumer and seeks to address the

potential for confusion by setting out clear and accurate guidelines on accepted nomenclature.

In formulation of this standard considerable assistance has been drawn from ISO:18323 :2015 - Jewellery Consumer confidence in Diamond Industry

Draft Indian Standard
Consumer Confidence in the Diamond Industry

1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies a set of permitted descriptors for the diamond industry and is specifically designed to be understood by the consumer. The Standard also includes a series of definitions which aim to provide further clarity for traders and maintain consumer confidence in the diamond industry as a whole.

This Standard will cover the nomenclature to be used by those involved in the buying and selling of diamonds, treated diamonds, laboratory-grown diamonds, composite diamonds and imitations of diamonds.

2 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1 Natural
formed completely by nature without human intervention during the formation

2.2 Laboratory-Grown
formed & grown by machine with human intervention during the growth process

Note 1 to entry: The word "laboratory" refers to the facility/ factory which manufactures laboratory-grown rough diamonds. This should not be confused with a gemological laboratory that is dedicated to the analysis, authentication, identification, classification (grading) of diamonds.

2.3 Diamond
mineral consisting essentially of carbon crystallized in the isometric (cubic) crystal system, with a hardness on the Mohs' scale of 10, a specific gravity of approximately 3.52 and a refractive index of approximately 2.42, created by nature.

Note 1 to entry: The denomination "diamond" without further specification always implies "natural diamond" only. These two terms are equivalent and carry the same meaning.

2.4 Treated diamond
Diamond (2.3) having undergone any human intervention other than cutting, polishing, cleaning and setting, to permanently or non-permanently change its appearance

EXAMPLES: Coating, fracture filling, heating, irradiation, laser drilling, HPHT treatment or any other physical or chemical process

Note: Treatments to diamonds should be mandatorily disclosed. It is unfair or deceptive to fail to disclose that a diamond has been treated

2.5 Laboratory-grown diamond
Laboratory-grown (2.2) diamond (2.3) that has essentially the same chemical composition, crystal structure and physical (including optical) properties as a diamond

Notes to entry

1. The terms "laboratory - grown diamond", "laboratory - created diamond", are considered to be synonymous and interchangeable, and any of these terms may be used. Abbreviations **such as "lab grown", "lab created" "lab diamond" or "LGD" shall not be used.** In this document, the term laboratory - grown diamond has been used to ensure consistency.

2. Abbreviations or terms such as "Fake Diamond" "Artificial Diamond" "Counterfeit Diamond" "China/Chinese Diamond", "Imitation diamond" "Diamond simulant" or "Syn diamond" – shall not be used to describe laboratory-grown diamonds. The term "Synthetic Diamonds" in the context of laboratory - grown diamonds, may be used to subject to the following conditions**:**

a. The term "Synthetic Diamond" may be used by any marketer in commercial documents or import/export documents, if so, required, under the laws or the regulation of any country, which such diamonds are to be exported, or from which such diamonds are to be imported.

Note: It is unfair or deceptive to use the word "laboratory-grown," "laboratory-created," "synthetic," or other word or phrase of like meaning with the name of any natural stone to describe any industry product unless such product has essentially the same optical, physical, and chemical properties as the stone named.

2.6 composite stone
assembled stone
stone constructed of two or more parts

2.7 brilliant
<noun>round polished diamond/Laboratory - grown diamond with a brilliant cutting style

2.8 artificial stone
crystalline stone that has no natural counterpart

2.9 imitation of diamond and laboratory - grown diamonds / diamond simulant

An imitation diamond, also named a diamond simulant, is an artificial product that imitates the appearance of diamonds / laboratory-grown diamonds without having their chemical composition, physical properties or structure.

2.10 stone
gemstones (including diamonds) (2.11), treated gemstones, laboratory - grown diamonds, (2.5), synthetic stones, composite stones and artificial stones usable for Jewellery.

2.11 gemstone
mineral of natural origin, rough, cut and/or polished, often used in Jewellery for reasons of combined beauty, rareness and value

Note1 to entry: "Gemstones" may be qualified with the terms "precious", "real", "genuine" and "natural".

2.12 gem
gemstone and/or organic substance of natural origin, often used in Jewellery for reasons of combined beauty, rareness and value

Note1to entry: "Gems" may be qualified with the terms "precious", "real", "genuine" and "natural".

2.13 Characteristics

2.13.1 clarity
relative absence or presence of internal characteristics/inclusions and external characteristics/blemishes

2.13.2 Colour
relative absence or presence of hue, saturation and lightness in standardized observation conditions

2.13.3 cut
comprises shape, proportions, symmetry and polish

2.13.4 Carat : Unit of weight

Note1 to entry: One carat being equivalent to 200mg (0.20g).

2.13.5 shape

Outline when viewed perpendicular to the table facet

2.13.6 total weight
combined weight of multiple diamonds, combined weight of multiple treated diamonds, combined weight of multiple laboratory - grown diamonds, combined weight of multiple combined weight of multiple imitations of diamonds.

Note 1 to entry: In the case of different materials being combined in a piece of jewellery or sold loose, the weight of the different categories of stones shall not be totaled.

2.13.7 fluorescence
appearance of luminescence when viewed under ultraviolet(UV) light.

2.13.8 diamond grading
to determine and to describe the most important features of a polished diamond (2.3) or gemstone (2.11)

EXAMPLE: Clarity, colour, cut and carat weight.

Note1 to entry: *Laboratory – grown diamonds* (2.5) may also be graded.

2.14 Treatments

2.14.1 Treatment
Any human intervention, other than the accepted practices of cutting, polishing, cleaning and setting that alters the appearance of a stone other than HPHT/LPHT performed on laboratory - grown diamond as part of their manufacturing process.

EXAMPLE: Coating, fracture filling, heating, irradiation, laser drilling, HPHT treatment or any other physical or chemical process

2.14.2 Fracture filling
to fill the whole or part of a fracture/fissure with a substance, e.g., glass, with the purpose of making the fracture/fissure less visible

2.14.3 Irradiation
exposure to radiation to change the colour.

2.14.4 Laser drilling
burning a channel with a laser between the surface of a diamond and an inclusion (generally black), the channel being used as a conduit to allow a chemical treatment of the inclusion with the purpose of making the inclusion less visible

2.14.5 HPHT treatment
changing the colour through a treatment involving both High Pressure and High Temperature (HPHT)

Note1 to entry: HPHT treatment may also affect clarity.

2.14.6 Coating
substance applied over the surface, or part of the surface for modifying the appearance

2.15 Documentation

2.15.1 commercial documents
written documents, including electronically, digitally or on the internet, to record the terms of a sale and purchase price whether actual or pending

EXAMPLE Certificates, bills of sale, invoices, memorandums, approbations, offers, receipts, advertisements, appraisals or any other documents of a similar nature or meaning

2.15.2 disclosure
release of relevant information about a *diamond* (2.3), *laboratory - grown diamond* (2.5), or *imitation of diamond/* laboratory - grown diamond (2.9) and their treatments.

3 DISCLOSURE

3.1 Misuse of terminology

It is contrary to the purposes of this document to make any misleading or deceptive statement, representation or illustration relating to origin, formation, production or condition of any diamond, treated diamond, laboratory - grown diamond, imitation of diamond/laboratory-grown diamond, or composite diamond that does not conform in all respects with any and all the clauses contained herein, in their selling, marketing or distribution of stones and jewelry as defined in this Standard.

3.2 Diamond

The denomination "diamond" without further qualification shall only be used for diamonds in accordance with the definition 2.3.

The word diamond or natural diamond shall only be used for natural diamonds. Any other terms like mined diamond, earth-mined diamond etc. shall not be used.

The word Diamond shall not be used anywhere without a corresponding prefix (laboratory - grown diamond, treated diamond, if the product being referred to is not a natural diamond).

3.3 Treated diamond

A diamond having undergone a treatment shall be disclosed as a "treated diamond" and/or a specific reference to the particular treatment and the description shall be immediately apparent and unambiguous.

The terms "natural treated diamond" or "treated natural diamond" shall not be used because they may be misleading.

Any special care requirements that the treatment creates shall be disclosed.

No abbreviations shall be used.

3.4 Laboratory - Grown Diamond

At present, laboratory-grown diamonds may be produced by 2 different techniques:

a) High Pressure High Temperature (HPHT) or

b) Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD).

A laboratory-grown diamond shall be disclosed as defined in 2.5 and the description shall be immediately apparent and unambiguous. The terms, "Laboratory-created diamond" or "laboratory-grown diamond", shall be used to describe laboratory-grown diamond. For the disclosure of a laboratory - grown diamond abbreviations like "lab grown", "lab created" "lab diamond" or "LGD" shall not be used.

The qualifiers such as natural, real, genuine, precious, semi-precious, cultured~~,~~ cultivated, man-made, ***earth-friendly, karma-free, conflict-free pure, nature's and gem shall*** not be used to describe any laboratory-grown diamond.

In addition, abbreviations such as "Fake Diamond" "Artificial Diamond" "counterfeit Diamond" "China/Chinese Diamond", "imitation diamond" "diamond simulant" or "syn diamond" shall not be used to describe any laboratory-grown diamond. The term "Synthetic Diamond" may be used to describe a laboratory-grown diamond only in the manner permissible in Paragraph 2.5 of this document.

Brand names and manufacturers names combined with the word diamond are insufficient disclosure when applied to laboratory-grown diamonds.

Laboratory-grown diamonds may have undergone HPHT/LPHT treatment for colour enhancement as part of their manufacturing process.

3.7 Composite stone

Composite stones in which all parts are composed of diamonds shall be called composite diamond or diamond doublet.

A composite stone where some but not all the parts are diamonds shall be described by the words “doublet” (two parts) or “triplet” (three parts) or “composite” (two or more parts), and these words shall be immediately combined with the correct names of the components of the assembled product, the names of which shall be mentioned from the upper part downwards and be separated by a slash(/).

EXAMPLE A doublet whose upper portion is diamond and whose lower portion is laboratory - grown diamond is called a “diamond/ laboratory - grown diamond doublet” or “doublet diamond/laboratory - grown diamond”.

3.8 Imitations of diamond/ imitation of Laboratory - Grown Diamond

When any artificial product is used to imitate a diamond/ Laboratory - Grown Diamond it shall be described by its proper name,(e.g.“glass”, “plastic”, “synthetic corundum”, “cubic zirconia”, Synthetic Moissanite),and the description shall be immediately apparent and unambiguous(see 4.3.2 to 4.3.5).

3.9 Gemstones that might be misrepresented as diamonds

A gemstone other than diamond whose colour, cut and appearance might be misrepresented as a diamond shall always be referred to by its mineral name, and not described as “imitation of diamond” (see 2.9).

3.10 stones that might be misrepresented as laboratory - grown diamonds

A stone other than laboratory - Grown diamond whose colour, cut and appearance might be misrepresented as a laboratory - grown diamond shall always be referred to by name, and not described as “imitation of laboratory - grown diamond”. For example: Synthetic Moissanite shall be referred as “Synthetic Moissanite”.

4 GLOSSARY

4.1 General

This glossary contains a non-exhaustive list of terms that the consumer could encounter.

4.2 Possible treatments of diamonds which shall be disclosed

- Coating
- Fracture filling
- HPHT-treatment
- Irradiation
- Irradiation and annealing
- Laser-drilling
- Painting
- Varnishing, and
- any combination of the above.

4.3 Products that might be misrepresented as diamonds

4.3.1 General

Diamonds exist in various colours, the products and stones listed below may exist in the same multiplicity.

4.3.2 Other synthetic stones

— Synthetic moissanite.

— Synthetic rutile.

— Synthetic sapphire.

— Synthetic quartz.

— Synthetic spinel.

4.3.3 Artificial stones

— Artificial stone Cubic Zirconia(CZ).

— Artificial stone Fabulite®, Strontium Titanite.

— Artificial stone YAG(Yttrium Aluminium Garnet).

— Artificial stone GGG(Gadolinium Gallium Garnet).

4.3.4 Composite stone

— Synthetic white spinel/artificial stone.

— Fabulite ®doublet.

4.3.5 Glass

— Glass.

— Lead glass.

— Lead crystal.

— Strass.

4.3.6 Gem stones that might be misrepresented as diamonds

— Quartz/Rock Crystal.

— Sapphire.

— Topaz.

— Zircon.

— Beryl.