



THE WORLD JEWELLERY CONFEDERATION

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The CIBJO Pearl Commission

## Pearl Blue Book amendments, Pearl Treatment Coding System and RRG Pearl Section Comments

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### Pearl Book Amendments

The CIBJO Pearl Blue Book in its new and informative format has evolved into a constantly referenced, truly informative, and highly important industry document. However, one needs to remember that it is a "live" document that is in constant need of revision as the trade evolves. Here are some of the amendments that were debated and agreed upon by the Pearl Commission during the 2009 CIBJO Congress held in Istanbul:

- The disclosure policy for a new treatment that artificially induces colour into Akoya cultured pearls during the actual growth process. The process injects fluids into the pearl sac

to induce varying colours that depend upon the metal used in the fluids.

- A new definition covering this treatment process is included in the latest version of Pearl Blue Book as follows: "Colour induced cultured pearl - a treatment inducing colouration of the cultured pearl by injection of metal fluids in the pearl sac of a pearl oyster during the cultivation process."
- A definition for Keshi Cultured Pearls (5.102) has been amended as follows: "A trade term that designates a non-beaded cultured pearl (5.136) formed accidentally or intentionally by human intervention in marine pearl oysters such as the Akoya oyster (*Pinctada fucata* 5.158), Silver/Gold lipped oyster (5.198) (*Pinctada maxima* 5.163) Black lipped oyster (*Pinctada margaritifera* 5.162), and freshwater molluscs."
- A change in the "Salt Water Cultured Pearls" Clause 4.2.8 in the Blue Book was agreed as follows: "When making reference to a saltwater cultured pearl the words 'cultured pearl' needs to be preceded by the word 'saltwater'."

No other amendments to the Pearl Blue Book have been discussed by the Pearl Commission since the 2009 Congress.

### **Pearl and cultured pearl treatment coding system**

During the 2009 Congress there was some debate about the necessity to go into even more detailed disclosure of cultured pearls and to start working on a coding system to be used within the trade for the different types of pearl and cultured pearl treatments, similar to what the Coloured Stone Commission is working on for coloured stones. In order to be consistent it was decided to wait until the Coloured Stone Commission submits its proposal at the forthcoming congress in Munich.

### **Retailers Reference Guide Pearl section comments**

The book published to protect and reinforce consumer confidence in the industry as well as to provide the trade with access to accurate information includes a section on pearls and cultured pearls developed with the help of the Pearl Commission Steering Committee. Some recommendations were made during and after the 2009 Congress regarding the Pearl Section suggesting that there be a more balanced presentation of each pearl and cultured pearl category, especially with greater emphasis on commercial cultured pearls such as: Tahitian cultured pearls, South Sea cultured pearls, freshwater cultured pearls and Mabe cultured pearls.

The Pearl Commission Steering Committee will review every request submitted and submit all proposed additions and modifications to the Pearl Commission during the course of this year for final approval.



### **Queen Conch (Strombus Gigas)**

The recent reported success in the production of cultured pearls from the Queen Conch (*Strombus Gigas*) sets a completely new and exciting direction in pearl culturing. It is through the introduction of these new technologies that we shall see renewed growth in this important industry. The recent economic recession has impacted the pearling industry as much as any other segment of the gem and jewellery sectors. We look forward to a dynamic 2010 and a resurgence of the pearl trade.



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