



**IDC-RULES
FOR GRADING POLISHED DIAMONDS**

The International Diamond Council

THE INTERNATIONAL DIAMOND COUNCIL

representing:

A. THE WORLD FEDERATION OF DIAMOND BOURSES

WORLD FEDERATION OF DIAMOND BOURSES

Pelikaanstraat 62
2018 ANTWERPEN

BELGIUM

Tel: +32-3-234-91-21
Fax: +32-3-226-40-73
E-mail: info@worldfed.com
Website: www.worldfed.com, www.wfdbmark.com

Antwerpsche Diamantkring CVBA

Hoveniersstraat 2
2018 Antwerpen

Belgium

Tel: +32-3-233-58-10 (members) +32-3-225.14.66 (Secretariat)
Fax: +32-3-233-70-71 (Secretariat) +32-3-225.14.65 (members)
E-mail: adk@worldfed.com
Website: www.diamantkring.org

Bangkok Diamonds and Precious Stones Exchange

Gemopolis Industrial Estate, 47-31 Moo 4 Sukhapiban 2 Road
Dokmai, Prawes,
Bangkok 10250

Thailand

Tel: +66-2-727-0022
Fax: +66-2-727-0494
E-Mail: bdpse@worldfed.com
Website : www.gemopolis.com/en/community/bdpe

Beurs voor Diamanthandel CVBA

Pelikaanstraat 78
2018 Antwerpen

Belgium

Tel: +32-3-231-37-90 (members) +32-3-233-53-13 (secr.)
Fax: +32-3-233-65-03
E-mail: bvd@worldfed.com
Website : www.antwerpdiamondbourse.net

Bharat Diamond Bourse

391, dr. D.B.Marg., Swastik Cinema Building
Mumbai 400 004

India

Tel: + (91-22)-2382-0174
Fax: + (91-22)-2385-6849
E-mail: bdb@worldfed.com
Website : www.bdbindia.org

Borsa Diamanti D'Italia

Via Torino 21
20123 Milano

Italy

Tel: +39-02-8646-1341 +39-02-869-3708
Fax: +39-02-7202-2697
E-mail: bdi@worldfed.com
Website : www.borsadiamantiditalia.it

Diamantclub van Antwerpen CVBA

Pelikaanstraat 62
2018 Antwerpen

Belgium

Tel: +32-3-220-9011 (Members) +32-3-232-7655 (Secretariat)
Fax: +32-3-232-1024
E-mail: dca@worldfed.com

Diamant-Club Wien

Spiegelgasse 2
1010 Wien

Austria

Tel: +43-1-512-7383
Fax: +43-1-512-7383
E-Mail: dcw@worldfed.com

Diamant- und Edelsteinbörse Idar-Oberstein E.V.

Mainzer Strasse 34
55743 Idar-Oberstein

Germany

Tel: +49-6781-9442-0
Fax: +49-6781-944266
E-mail: deio@worldfed.com
Website : www.diamant-edelstein-boerse.de

Diamond Bourse of Southeast United States, Inc

Club trading Floor only:
169 E.Flagler Street, Suite 1037
Miami, Florida 33131

USA

Tel: +1-305-373-4351
Fax: +1-305-375-0215
E-mail: dbse@worldfed.com

DIAMOND CHAMBER OF RUSSIA

12, ULITSA SMOLNAYA
125493 Moscow

Russia

Tel: +7-495-775-6278/79
Fax-Tel: +7-495-775-6276
E-mail: dcr@worldfed.com
Website : www.diamond-chamber.ru

Diamond Club West Coast, Inc.

550 South Hill Street
16th Floor, Suite 1600
Los Angeles
California 90013

USA

Tel: +1-213-623-1162 +1-213-623-2142
Fax: +1-213-623-5357
E-mail: dcwc@worldfed.com
Website: www.diamcwc.com

Diamond Dealers Club

580 Fifth Avenue at 47th Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

USA

Tel: +1-212-790-3600 (members) +1-212-869-9777 (secretariat)
Fax: +1-212-869-5164 (exec.off.) +1-212-869-5511 (members)
Email: ddc@worldfed.com
Website : www.nyddc.com

Diamond Dealers Club of Australia

Suite 305 The Strand Arcade
412-414 George St.
Sydney 2000

Australia

Tel: +612-9223-6444
Fax: +612-9223-8176
Email: ddca@worldfed.com

Diamond Dealers Club of South Africa

Postal Address :

Suite 102-S A Diamond Centre
Private Bag X1, Excom 2023-South Africa

Physical Address :

Suite 102 – 1st Fl., S.A. Diamond Centre
240 COMMISSIONER STREET, 2001 JOHANNESBURG-

South Africa

Tel: +27-11-334-1930
Fax : +27-11-334-1933
E-mail: ddcsa@worldfed.com
Website : www.diamonddealers.co.za

Diamond Exchange of Singapore

545 Orchard Road # 11-02
Far East Shopping Centre

Singapore 238882

Tel: +65-67386162
Fax: +65-67370993
E-mail: des@worldfed.com

Dubai Diamond Exchange

Business Avenue, Mezzanine Level
P.O.Box 48800
Dubai

United Arab Emirates

Tel: +971-4-295-2262
Fax: +971-4-294-5901
E-mail : dde@worldfed.com
Website : www.dde.ae

Hong Kong Diamond Bourse Limited

8-10 Duddell Street, 5th Floor
Hong Kong Diamond Exchange Building
Central, Hong Kong,

Tel: +852-2524-50-81
Fax: +852-2877-98-31
E-mail: hkdb@worldfed.com
Website : www.dfhk.com.hk

Istanbul Gold and Diamond Exchange

Rithim Cad. No. 231-233
34425 Karakoy
Istanbul

Turkey

Tel: +90-212-292-66-00
Fax: +90-212-249-73-46
+90-212-292-66-18
Email: igde@worldfed.com
Website: www.iab.gov.tr

IDC-Rules for Grading Polished Diamonds

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MOSCOW DIAMOND BOURSE

NAB. TARASA SHEVCHENKO 23A 22ND FLOOR

121151 MOSCOW

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Tel. and Fax: +7 495 255 83 00

E-mail: mdb@worldfed.com

Panama Diamond Exchange

Torres de las Americas, 503B

Punta Pacifica

Panama City

Republic of Panama

Tel: +507-204-5778

Fax: +507-204-5779

Email: pde@worldfed.com

Website: www.pde.com.pa

Shanghai Diamond Exchange

4-6F. JIN MAO TOWER, NO. 88 CENTURY BLD.

PU DONG NEW AREA

SHANGHAI 200-120

China

Tel: +86-21-5047-0197

Fax: +86-21-5047-0209

E-mail: sde@worldfed.com

Website : www.cnsde.com

THE ISRAEL DIAMOND EXCHANGE LTD.

JABOTINSKY ROAD 3

P.O.B. 3222

Ramat Gan 52130

Israel

Tel: +972-3-576-02-11 (members) +972-3-576-03.00 (office)

Fax: +972-3-575-06-52

E-mail: ide@worldfed.com

Website : www.isde.co.il

The Israel Precious Stones & Diamonds Exchange Ltd

Jabotinsky Street 1

Maccabi Building

Ramat Gan 52520

Israel

Tel: +972-3-575-1177 +972-3-751-2013

Fax: +972-3-575-2547

E-mail: ipsde@worldfed.com

Website : www.ipsde-il.com

The London Diamond Bourse and Club

100 Hatton Garden
London EC1N 8NX

England, United Kingdom

Tel: +44-20-7404-4022 (members) +44-20-7405-2625 (office)
Fax: +44-20-7831-3860
E-mail: ldbc@worldfed.com
Website : www.londondiamondbourse.com

The New Israel Club for Commerce in Diamonds Ltd.

48, Bezalel Street
Ramat Gan 52520

Israel

Tel: +972-3-751-2191 +972-3-751-2193 (office)
Fax: +972-3-5750652
E-mail: niccd@worldfed.com

Tokyo Diamond Exchange Inc.

5F, 26-2 Higashi-Ueno 1-Choume
Taitou-Ku, Tokyo 110-0015

Japan

Tel: +81-3-3831-6775
Fax: +81-3-3839-4645
E-mail: tde@worldfed.com

Vereniging Beurs voor den Diamanhandel

Hogehilweg 14
1101 Cd Amsterdam Z.O.

The Netherlands

Tel: +31-20-696-2251
Fax: +31-20-696-5171
E-mail: ybvd@worldfed.com
Website : www.diamantbeurs.org

Vrije Diamanhandel NV

Pelikaanstraat 62
2018 Antwerpen

Belgium

Tel: +32-3-220-9011 (members) +32-3-232-7013 (secr.)
Fax: +32-3-232-70-13
E-Mail: vdh@worldfed.com

B. THE INTERNATIONAL DIAMOND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

President: Mr. Jeffrey Fischer

Tel.: +1-212-8691990
Fax: +1-212-3549775
Cell: +1-9146733773
E-mail: jeff@fischerdiamonds.com
CHABI@aol.com

Secretary-general: Mr. Stephane Fischler
Treasurer

Tel.: +32-32324660
Fax: +32-32331129
Cell: +32-475232089
E-mail: idma.net@gmail.com
fischlerdiamonds@skynet.be

SYNDIKAAT DER BELGISCHE DIAMANTNIJVERHEID (SBD)

Hoveniersstraat 22
2018 Antwerpen
BELGIUM

Tel.: +32-32331129/+32-32342258
Fax: +32-32274630
E-mail: sbd@sbd.be

VERENIGING VAN KEMPISCHE DIAMANTWERKGEVERS VZW

Hoveniersstraat 40
2018 Antwerpen
BELGIUM

Tel.: +32-3-2332193
Fax: +32-3-2316583

BUNDESVERBAND DER EDELSTEIN- UND DIAMANTINDUSTRIE e.V.

Mainzer Strasse 34
D-55743 Idar-Oberstein
GERMANY

Tel.: +49-6781-944240
Fax: +49-6781-944266

ALGEMENE JUWELIERSVERENIGING

p.o. Box 75059
Amsterdam 1070 AB
THE NETHERLANDS

Tel.: +31-20-6791311
Fax: +31-20-6792237

GEM & JEWELLERY EXP. PROMOTION COUNCIL

Diamond Plaza, 5th floor
391-A Dr. D.B. Marg.
Mumbai 400 004
INDIA

Tel.: +91-22-223679185
Fax: +91-22-223808752

THE ISRAEL DIAMOND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION LTD.

3, Jabotinsky Road
Ramat-Gan 52520
ISRAEL

Tel.: +972-35752483
Fax : +972-35750417

MASTER DIAMOND CUTTERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Suite 102 S A Diamond Centre
Private Bag X1
Excom 2023

Tel.: 00-27-11-3341930
Fax: 00-27-11-3341933

SOUTH AFRICA

THE THAI DIAMOND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

87/139-140 Modern Town Bldg,18/F
Soi Ekamai 3, Sukhumvit 63 Road,
Klongton Nua, Vadhana
Bangkok 10110

Tel. : +662-3812780
Fax : +662-7114039
E-mail: info@thaidiamonds.org
Website : www.thaidiamonds.org

THAILAND

DIAMOND MANUFACTURERS & IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

P.O. Box 5297
Rockefeller Center Station
New York NY 10185-5297
U.S.A.

Tel.: +1-212-8691990
Fax: +1-212-3549775

ASSOCIATION OF DIAMOND MANUFACTURERS OF RUSSIA

2, Shkadov Street
214031 Smolensk
RUSSIA

Tel.: +70-4812-450550
Fax : +70-4812-610087

SRI LANKA DIAMOND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

No 129, Reid Avenue
Colombo 4
SRI LANKA

Tel.: 00-94-112-555636
Fax: 00-94-112-553131

CHINA DIAMOND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Room 623, Shangai Diamond Exchange
Jingmao Tower, 88 Century Boulevard,Pudong District
Shangai
CHINA

Tel.: 00-86-021-38780109

DIAMOND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

PO Box 51
Cumberland
ON K4C 1E5
CANADA

Tel.: 613-833-5499
Fax: 613-833-2488
E-mail: info@diamondmanufacturers.ca

BOTSWANA DIAMOND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

PRIVATE BAG 100
SEROWE
BOTSWANA

Tel.: +267 463 0177
Fax: +267 463 0178
E-mail: mervin@diaroughsa.co.za

ASSOCIATION OF JEWELLERS AND DIAMOND MANUFACTURERS OF ARMENIA

0023, Arshakunyats str. 12
YEREVAN
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Tel.: +37410525321
Fax: +37410525713
E-mail: ajdm-armenia@rambler.ru

Introduction to the 1979 edition

At the International Congress of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses and the International Diamond Manufacturers Association, held in Amsterdam in May '75, a joint committee, recently renamed the International Diamond Council, was appointed with a mandate to establish unity in the normalization of the grading of polished diamonds.

The International Diamond Council decided to start from the following principles:

- A set of internationally recognized standards should be developed, applicable in the same way all over the world.
- Working methods for applying these standards should be normalized too. This is necessary in order to arrive at uniform certificates.
- Internationally recognized institutes, which will apply the accepted standards and methods, have to be set up.

As a result of several meetings and discussions of the International Diamond Council in 1975, 1976 and 1977, a first document on the standards as well as on the working methods was drafted in July '77, namely the "Proposal for Normalizing the Description of Diamonds".

In March of the same year, an international series of colour masterstones and corresponding denominations were accepted in agreement with the CIBJO.

In May '78 the basic principles of the standards, called the "International Rules for Grading Polished Diamonds", were proposed for ratification at the 19th Congress of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses and the International Diamond Manufacturers Association in Israel. They were unanimously approved.

The present document is an updated version of the rules, approved in 1995, with amendments based on the remarks and suggestions of the several organizations. All rules approved at the World Congress in Israel are marked "IR May '78" (international rule May '78).

Note: Since the 1995 edition the markings "IR May 78" have been deleted, since they were of historical interest only.

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1. GENERAL

1.1. DEFINITIONS

1.1.1. DIAMOND OR NATURAL DIAMOND

A diamond or a natural diamond is a natural mineral of crystallized carbon in a cubic structure with a Mohs' scale hardness of 10, a specific gravity of +/- 3.52 g/cm³ and a refractive index of 2.42.

The denomination “diamond” or “natural diamond” may not be used as such to describe any other product, not even to indicate items partly consisting of diamond or natural diamond, such as doublets.

The denomination “diamond” without further specification always implies “natural diamond”. These two terms are equivalent and carry the same meaning.

1.1.2. TREATED DIAMOND

A treated diamond is a diamond/natural diamond that has been subjected to a treatment/enhancement-process, other than cutting, polishing and cleaning, intended or not intended to possibly change the diamond's appearance or other properties.

A non permanent treatment/enhancement-process may be:

- Filling
- Coating
- Any other non permanent physical or chemical process
- Any combination of the above mentioned treatments/enhancements-processes

A permanent treatment/enhancement-process may be:

- Irradiation
- Heating
- High pressure/high temperature heating (HPHT)
- Any other permanent physical or chemical process
- Any combination of the above mentioned treatments/enhancements-processes

1.1.3. SYNTHETIC DIAMOND

A laboratory-created/laboratory-grown/man-made/synthetic diamond is a fully or partly man-made/artificial product that has the same chemical composition, crystal structure, optical and physical properties as a diamond/natural diamond.

For the purpose of this document the term synthetic diamond equals the terms laboratory-created/laboratory-grown/man-made/synthetic diamond.

1.1.4. TREATED SYNTHETIC DIAMOND

A treated Synthetic diamond is a Synthetic diamond that has been subjected to further treatment/enhancement-process, other than growing, cutting, polishing and cleaning intended or not intended to possibly change the synthetic diamond's appearance or other properties.

A non permanent treatment/enhancement-process may be:

- Filling
- Coating
- Any other non permanent physical or chemical process
- Any combination of the above mentioned treatments/enhancements-processes

A permanent treatment/enhancement-process may be:

- Irradiation
- Heating
- High pressure/high temperature heating (HPHT)
- Any other permanent physical or chemical process
- Any combination of the above mentioned treatments/enhancements-processes

1.1.5. SIMULANT

A simulant is a product or a material that may be used with the intention to simulate a diamond or a diamond's appearance, for example cubic zirconia.

A simulant is a product or a material that does not have the same chemical composition, crystal structure, optical or physical properties as a “diamond” or a “natural diamond”.

The word “diamond” may not be used to describe or disclose such a stone, not even in combination with other words.

1.1.6. LASER DRILLING

Diamonds subjected to laser drilling can be graded as such but must always be characterized as "laser drilled".

1.2. DISCLOSURE

1.2.1. DIAMONDS TREATED BY A NON PERMANENT TREATMENT/ENHANCEMENT-PROCESS

1.2.1.1. FILLING

Must be disclosed as “Treated Diamond”.
The type of treatment must be disclosed as “Filled”.

1.2.1.2. COATING

Must be disclosed as “Treated Diamond”.
The type of treatment must be disclosed as “Coated”.

1.2.2. DIAMONDS TREATED BY A PERMANENT TREATMENT/ENHANCEMENT-PROCESS

Must be disclosed as “Treated Diamond”.
The type of treatment(s) must be disclosed as “treatment(s) detected”.

A permanent treatment/enhancement-process may be:

- Irradiation
- Heating
- High pressure/high temperature heating (HPHT)
- Any other physical or chemical process that is permanent.
- Any combination of the above mentioned treatments/enhancements-processes

Labs will have the choice whether or not to issue a grading report/certificate for treated diamonds.
In case one is issued only a full grading report may be delivered.

If they do not issue grading reports, a short statement with weight, shape and nature of the stone must be available. The term “Treated Diamond Examination Report” or “Treated Diamond Assurance Report” is suggested for this limited document.

1.2.3. SYNTHETIC DIAMOND

Must be disclosed as “Synthetic diamond”.

Labs will have the choice whether or not to issue a grading report/certificate for synthetic diamonds.
In case one is issued only a full grading report may be delivered.

If they do not issue grading reports, a short statement with weight, shape and nature of the stone must be available. The term “Synthetic Diamond Examination Report” or “Synthetic Diamond Assurance Report” is suggested for this limited document.

The terms laboratory-created/laboratory-grown/man-made/synthetic diamond may be used. The term “cultured” may not be used in any way to describe synthetic diamonds.

1.2.4. TREATED SYNTHETIC DIAMOND

1.2.4.1. SYNTHETIC DIAMONDS TREATED BY A NON PERMANENT TREATMENT/ENHANCEMENT-PROCESS

Must be disclosed as “Treated Synthetic Diamond”

1.2.4.1.1. FILLING

Must be disclosed as “Treated Synthetic Diamond”.
The type of treatment must be disclosed as “Filled”.

1.2.4.1.2. COATING

Must be disclosed as “Treated Synthetic Diamond”.
The type of treatment must be disclosed as “Coated”.

1.2.4.2. SYNTHETIC DIAMONDS TREATED BY A PERMANENT TREATMENT/ENHANCEMENT-PROCESS

Must be disclosed as “Treated Synthetic Diamond”.
The type of treatment(s) must be disclosed as “treatment(s) detected”.

A permanent treatment/enhancement-process may be:

- Irradiation
- Heating
- High pressure/high temperature heating (HPHT)
- Any other physical or chemical process that is permanent.
- Any combination of the above mentioned treatments/enhancements-processes

Labs will have the choice whether or not to issue a grading report/certificate for Treated Synthetic Diamonds.

In case one is issued only a full grading report/certificate may be delivered.

If they do not issue grading reports/certificates, a short statement with weight, shape and nature of the stone must be available. The term “Treated Synthetic Diamond Examination Report” or “Treated Synthetic Diamond Assurance Report” is suggested for this limited document.

1.3. GRADING AND CERTIFICATION

1.3.1. DIAMONDS TREATED BY A NON PERMANENT TREATMENT/ENHANCEMENT-PROCESS

1.3.1.1. FILLING

May not be graded and certified.

A Treated Diamond Examination Report can be issued.

- On the Treated Diamond Examination Report, it must be mentioned that the stone has been identified as a “Treated Diamond”.
- Under the comments section of the Treated Diamond Examination Report the wording “Filled” must be mentioned.
- On the Treated Diamond Examination Report, besides a description on the nature of a stone, also the weight, measurements and shape must be described. No other results may be given.

1.3.1.2. COATING

May not be graded and certified

A Treated Diamond Examination Report can be issued.

- On the Treated Diamond Examination Report, it must be mentioned that the stone has been identified as a “Treated Diamond”.
- Under the comments section of the Treated Diamond Examination Report the wording “Coated” must be mentioned.
- On the Treated Diamond Examination Report, besides a description on the nature of a stone, also the weight, measurements and shape must be described. No other results may be given.

1.3.2. DIAMONDS TREATED BY A PERMANENT TREATMENT/ENHANCEMENT-PROCESS

May be graded and certified.

A Treated Diamond Grading Report/Certificate may be issued.

- The Treated Diamond Grading Report/Certificate must be issued in a jacket-cover that is printed in a colour that is distinctive from the colour used for the jacket-cover of the Grading Reports/Certificates of “Diamonds” or “Natural Diamonds”.
- The wording “TREATED DIAMOND GRADING REPORT/CERTIFICATE” must be mentioned on the cover.
- On the Treated Diamond Grading Report/Certificate, it must be mentioned that the stone has been identified as a “Treated Diamond”.

- The section of the Treated Diamond Grading Report/Certificate, referring to the colour or the colour grade, must contain the wording - in capital letters – “TREATED”, with a referral by means of a superscript.

The superscript refers to the comments section of the Treated Diamond Grading Report/Certificate where the description of the colour must be mentioned. This description must be followed by the wording “treatment(s) detected”.

- Treated diamonds can only be certified if clearly laser inscribed.
- The presence of the laser inscription must be mentioned on the Treated Diamond Grading Report/Certificate: inscription on girdle: TREATED.

1.3.3. SYNTHETIC DIAMOND

May be graded and certified.

A Synthetic Diamond Grading Report/Certificate may be issued.

- The Synthetic Diamond Grading Report/Certificate must be issued in a jacket-cover that is printed in a colour that is distinctive from the colour used for the jacket-cover of the Grading Reports/Certificates of “Diamonds” or “Natural Diamonds”.
- The wording “LABORATORY-CREATED/LABORATORY-GROWN/MAN-MADE/ SYNTHETIC DIAMOND GRADING REPORT/CERTIFICATE” must be mentioned on the cover.
- On the Synthetic Diamond Grading Report/Certificate, it must be mentioned that the stone has been identified as a “Synthetic Diamond”.
- Synthetic diamonds can only be certified if clearly laser inscribed.
- The presence of the laser inscription must be mentioned on the Synthetic Diamond Grading Report/Certificate:
inscription on girdle: LABORATORY-CREATED/LABORATORY-GROWN/MAN-MADE/ SYNTHETIC
- The definition of a synthetic diamond will be mentioned on the Synthetic Diamond Grading Report/Certificate.
 - * “Man-made product that has the same chemical composition, crystal structure, optical and physical properties as a diamond/natural diamond.”
 - Or
 - * “Man-made reproduction of diamond that has the same chemical composition, crystal structure and physical properties as its natural counterpart.”
 - Or
 - * “Synthetic diamonds are man-made, artificially grown crystals. The structural, chemical and physical properties of artificially produced crystals are identical to those of diamond/ natural diamonds.”

1.3.3.1. GRADING OF THE COLOUR

The colour will be described in the descriptive terms of the scale:

- Colorless
- Near colorless
- Faint
- Very light
- Light

1.3.3.2. GRADING OF THE CLARITY

For loupe-clean stones the term FI – Free of Inclusions will be used.

For the other grades, the distinction between 1 and 2 is dropped. In addition, “small” is replaced by “light” in the definitions, with the intention to make the difference between synthetic and natural obvious at first glance.

- VVL very, very lightly included
- VL very lightly included
- L lightly included
- I included
- HI heavily included

1.3.3.3. GRADING FLUORESCENCE, PROPORTIONS AND FINISH

Same grading-system as for a “Diamond”.

1.3.3.4. GRADING OF FANCY COLOURS

Same grading-system as for a “Diamond”.

Never use the term “fancy” to grade a laboratory-created/laboratory-grown/man-made/synthetic diamond.

1.3.4. TREATED SYNTHETIC DIAMOND

1.3.4.1. SYNTHETIC DIAMONDS TREATED BY A NON PERMANENT TREATMENT/ENHANCEMENT-PROCESS

1.3.4.1.1. FILLING

May not be graded and certified.

A Treated Synthetic Diamond Examination Report can be issued.

- On the Treated Synthetic Diamond Examination Report, it must be mentioned that the stone has been identified as a “Treated Synthetic Diamond”.
- Under the comments section of the Treated Synthetic Diamond Examination Report the wording “Filled” must be mentioned.
- On the Treated Synthetic Diamond Examination Report, besides a description on the nature of a stone, also the weight, measurements and shape must be described. No other results may be given.

1.3.4.1.2. COATING

May not be graded and certified

A Treated Synthetic Diamond Examination Report can be issued.

- On the Treated Synthetic Diamond Examination Report, it must be mentioned that the stone has been identified as a “Treated Synthetic Diamond”.
- Under the comments section of the Treated Synthetic Diamond Examination Report the wording “Coated” must be mentioned.
- On the Treated Synthetic Diamond Examination Report, besides a description on the nature of a stone, also the weight, measurements and shape must be described. No other results may be given.

1.3.4.2. SYNTHETIC DIAMONDS TREATED BY A PERMANENT TREATMENT/ENHANCEMENT-PROCESS

May be graded and certified.

A Treated Synthetic Diamond Grading Report/Certificate may be issued.

- The Treated Synthetic Diamond Grading Report/Certificate must be issued in a jacket-cover that is printed in a colour that is distinctive from the colour used for the jacket-cover of the Grading Reports/Certificates of “Diamonds” or “Natural Diamonds”.
- The wording “TREATED SYNTHETIC DIAMOND GRADING REPORT/CERTIFICATE” must be mentioned on the cover.

- On the Treated Synthetic Diamond Grading Report/Certificate, it must be mentioned that the stone has been identified as a “Treated Synthetic Diamond”.
- The section of the Treated Synthetic Diamond Grading Report/Certificate, referring to the colour or the colour grade, must contain the wording - in capital letters – “TREATED”, with a referral by means of a superscript.
The superscript refers to the comments section of the Treated Synthetic Diamond Grading Report/Certificate where the description of the colour must be mentioned. This description must be followed by the wording “treatment(s) detected”.
- Treated Synthetic diamonds can only be certified if clearly laser inscribed.
- The presence of the laser inscription must be mentioned on the Treated Synthetic Diamond Grading Report/Certificate: inscription on girdle: TREATED SYNTHETIC.

1.4. DIAMOND CERTIFICATES/GRADING REPORTS

A usual Certificate/Grading Report of a Diamond includes mention of the four main characteristics, namely the weight, the clarity grade, the colour grade and the cut.

1.4.1. CONTENTS OF A DIAMOND CERTIFICATE/GRADING REPORT

A complete Certificate/Grading Report of a Diamond as it should appear on a Certificate, includes the following data:

- the statement that the diamond has been identified as a natural or HPHT treated or synthetic diamond
- reference number
- weight
- shape and measurements
- clarity grade
- colour and fluorescence grade
- cut: proportions and finish-grade
- comments and identification marks, if applicable
- plot
- place of issue
- date of issue
- reference to IDC

1.4.2. CONDITIONS REGARDING THE STATE IN WHICH DIAMONDS MUST BE PRESENTED FOR GRADING

Diamonds must be presented for grading unmounted and free of any obstacles including dirt.

2. GRADING - CLARITY

2.1. DETERMINATION OF CLARITY GRADES

The clarity grades are obtained by establishing the relevant internal and external characteristics.

2.2. RELEVANT INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CHARACTERISTICS

2.2.1. Internal characteristics

As a definition all characteristics, which are internally or partly internally perceptible, belong to the internal characteristics.

To be more precise, they are:

- the inclusions:
 - e.g. crystalline inclusions, carbon inclusions, pinpoints, clouds, ...
- fractures
- cleavages (feathers, bearding, fissures)
- some kinds of structure phenomena (ref. 2.3.4.2.)
- poor transparency of the diamond
- remaining parts of the rough diamond: indented naturals, nicks
- laser drill holes

2.2.2. External characteristics

The following belong to the external characteristics:

- externally located faults caused during polishing, such as polishing lines, rough edges, burn marks and slightly bearded girdle
- externally located damages, such as scratches, abraded culet and point-shaped damages
- some kinds of structure phenomena (ref. 2.3.4.2.)

2.3. CLARITY GRADING SCALE

The subdivision and denominations of the clarity grades are as follows:

LOUPE-CLEAN

VVS1

VVS2

VS1

VS2

SI1

SI2

P1 (I1)

P2 (I2)

P3 (I3)

2.3.1. DEFINITION OF "LOUPE-CLEAN"

No diamond can be referred to as being 100% free of inclusions/internal characteristics. In all diamonds inclusions will occur. They belong to the essential character of the diamond. Therefore, the first clarity grade does not refer to diamonds being 100% inclusion free, but to diamonds being "loupe-clean", i.e. free of internal characteristics in so far as the diamonds are examined under a magnification of a loupe 10X. In particular, the definition generally accepted in the diamond industry states that:

A diamond is called "loupe-clean" if, after an examination by an experienced grader with a loupe 10X (corrected for spherical and chromatic aberration), it has been found free of internal characteristics.

It is recommended that the characteristics of the artificial light source used, approximate the C.I.E.-standard illuminant D65 (C.I.E. = Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage / International Commission on Illumination).

The recommended method is to make a direct comparison, using a loupe 10X, with a reference diamond, accepted by the IDC, containing an inclusion marking the limit of the loupe-clean-grade. In any case, whatever means of examination are used; the final decision must be made with a loupe 10X.

2.3.2. GRADING OF INTERNAL CHARACTERISTICS

The **internal characteristics** are graded as described in the following definitions, which are to be (valid for) used by an experienced grader.

loupe-clean	ref. 2.3.1.
VVS : VVS1 VVS2	Very very small internal characteristic(s), which can be found from very hardly to hardly with a loupe 10x. The size, position, number and brightness of the internal characteristics determine the distinction between vvs1 and vvs2.
VS : VS1 VS2	Very small internal characteristic(s), which can be found from fairly hardly to easily with a loupe 10x. The size, position, number and brightness of the internal characteristics determine the distinction between vs1 and vs2.
SI : SI1 SI2	Small internal characteristic(s), very easy to find with a loupe 10x. The size, position, number and brightness of the internal characteristics determine the distinction between si1 and si2.
P1 or I1	Pique 1 or Included 1 Internal characteristic(s), which can hardly be found with the naked eye through the crown side of the diamond.
P2 or I2	Pique 2 or Included 2 Large and/or frequent internal characteristic(s), easily visible to the naked eye through the crown side and which reduce(s) the brilliancy of the diamond slightly.
P3 or I3	Pique 3 or Included 3 Very large and/or frequent internal characteristic(s), very easy to be seen with the naked eye through the crown side and which reduce(s) the brilliancy of the diamond.

2.3.3. GRADING OF EXTERNAL CHARACTERISTICS

External characteristics are graded as described in the following definitions, which are valid for use by an experienced grader.

type of external characteristics	grading of the external characteristics	
polishing faults or damages	for diamonds without internal characteristics: the clarity grade becomes loupe-clean and the external characteristics are mentioned as :	for diamonds with internal characteristics: the external characteristics may influence the clarity grading
not to find or very hard to find with a loupe 10X	not to be mentioned	no influence
fairly hard to find with a loupe 10X	mentioned as: negligible external characteristics	no influence
easy to find with a loupe 10X	mentioned as: external characteristics	may influence the clarity grading
very easy to find with a loupe 10X	separate description under "Comments " (example: important burning marks on crown side)	may influence the clarity grading

Major external characteristics, visible from the crown side, may influence the clarity grading.

When a diamond does not have any internal, but only external characteristics, it is referred to as being "loupe-clean" and a mention is made about the external characteristics. In case of diamonds with internal characteristics, the external characteristics can diminish the clarity grade.

2.3.4. GRADING OF STRUCTURE PHENOMENA

2.3.4.1. STRUCTURE PHENOMENA

The growth lines, the graining effects and the different forms of "knots", such as the twinning seams, knot lines and knot planes, are considered as "structure phenomena". The meaning of these terms is explained in the addendum "Types of structure phenomena in diamonds".

2.3.4.2. DESCRIPTION

The different kinds of structure phenomena can be divided into the following groups:

- A. Structure phenomena that are only externally visible (e.g. surface grain lines, twinning lines, knot lines).
- B. Structure phenomena that are internally visible, but are not causing any colour effects or white reflections (e.g. growth lines and (some) various? kinds of graining)
- C. Structure phenomena that are internally visible and are causing colour effect or white reflections (e.g. brownish coloured zones, reflective grain planes and (some) various? kinds of graining).

The rules for grading the structure phenomena of groups A and B are as follows:

visibility of the structure phenomena	diamonds without internal characteristics	diamonds with internal characteristics
not to be found or very hard to find with a loupe 10X	- clarity grade : "loupe-clean" - no remarks	no influence on the grading of the internal characteristics
hard to find with a loupe 10X	- clarity grade : "loupe-clean" - description under "Identification Marks" - minor surface grain lines - minor graining	no influence on the grading of the internal characteristics

fairly easy to find with a loupe 10X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clarity grade : "loupe-clean" - description under "Comments" - surface grain lines - graining 	no influence on the grading of the internal characteristics
easy to find with a loupe 10X	the structure phenomena influence the clarity grading	the structure phenomena may influence the clarity grading

The rules for grading the structure phenomena of group C are as follows:

visibility of the structure phenomena	diamonds without internal characteristics	diamonds with internal characteristics
not to find with a loupe 10X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clarity grade : "loupe-clean" - no remarks 	no influence on the grading of the internal characteristics
very hard to find with a loupe 10X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clarity grade : "loupe-clean" - description under "Identification Marks" - minor graining 	no influence on the grading of the internal characteristics
hard to find with a loupe 10X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clarity grade : "loupe-clean" - description under "Comments" - graining 	no influence on the grading of the internal characteristics
fairly easy to find with a loupe 10X	the structure phenomena influence the clarity grading	the structure phenomena may influence the clarity grading

3. GRADING - COLOUR AND FLUORESCENCE

3.1. DETERMINATION OF COLOUR GRADES

The diamond colours can be divided in two main groups:

- colourless to light yellow diamonds (or equivalent)
diamonds with a yellow hue, possibly with a faint brownish, grayish or greenish deviation
- coloured diamonds
all diamonds darker than light yellow (or equivalent) and
all diamonds with another colour hue

3.1.1. COLOURLESS TO LIGHT YELLOW DIAMONDS (OR EQUIVALENT)

3.1.1.1. COLOUR GRADES

These colours are subdivided into 10 colour grades, called the "International Colour Grading Scale" (see colour comparison table 3.1.1.2.).

3.1.1.2. INTERNATIONAL COLOUR GRADING SCALE

International Colour Grading Scale			
exceptional white +	blanc exceptionnel +	hochfeines Weiss +	D
exceptional white	blanc exceptionnel	hochfeines Weiss	E
rare white +	blanc extra +	feines Weiss +	F
rare white	blanc extra	feines Weiss	G
white	blanc	Weiss	H
slightly tinted white +	blanc nuancé +	leicht getöntes Weiss +	I
slightly tinted white	blanc nuancé	leicht getöntes Weiss	J
tinted white +	légèrement teinté +	getöntes Weiss +	K
tinted white	légèrement teinté	getöntes Weiss	L
tinted colour	couleur teintée	getönt	M-Z

3.1.1.3. DETERMINATION OF THE COLOUR

The colours must be determined by comparison with masterstones.

After a complete validation and on the base of a comparison between the results of a measuring instrument with those of a grader, colour measuring equipment can be used for grading.

3.1.1.4. POSITION OF THE MASTERSTONES

The colour grades are fixed by a series of masterstones, which, as a definition, fix the lower limit of each colour grade. An international reference-series has been composed by representatives of the WFDB, the IDMA and CIBJO.

3.1.1.5. SELECTION OF MASTERSTONES

A series of valid masterstones must be selected by direct comparison with the international reference series.

The masterstones must comply with the following requirements:

- brilliant-shapes only
- weight: larger than 0.70 ct
- proportions: vg
 - table diameter: 60 to 66%
 - crown height: 11 to 14%
 - girdle thickness: smaller than 3%
 - pavilion depth: 42 to 45%
- clarity: vs2 or better, free of colored or black inclusions and structure phenomena causing colour effects
- girdles: bruted, faceted or polished girdles (the nature of the girdles must be the same within 1 set of masterstones)
- fluorescence: nil or slight
- colour: yellow hues only

3.1.1.6. CONDITIONS

The colour comparison with masterstones is performed under normalized artificial light, equivalent to northern daylight. It is recommended that the characteristics of the artificial light source used, approximate the C.I.E.-standard illuminant D65 (C.I.E. = Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage / International Commission on Illumination).

The masterstones and the diamond to be graded are placed on a V-shaped white support (e.g. a folded white paper) and observed from a direction, perpendicular to the pavilion facets.

3.1.1.7. GRADING

The comparison with the masterstones is made as follows: if no difference in colour is observed between the diamond to be graded and a specific reference-diamond, then the colour of the latter is conclusive.

If the colour of the diamond to be graded lies between those of two reference-diamonds, then the colour of the darkest one is conclusive.

3.1.1.8. EQUIVALENT COLOUR

Diamonds of equivalent colour are compared with the same masterstones and in the same manner as diamonds with light-yellow colour.

In case of a clearly visible distinction, this has to be mentioned together with the colour grade.

3.1.2. COLOURED DIAMONDS

3.1.2.1. Determination

The colour determination is performed by comparison with colour standards.

3.1.2.2. Description

The following characteristics are described:

- colour hue
- colour saturation and lightness
- colour origin

3.1.2.3. Denomination

Depending on the above mentioned characteristics of the colour, the term "fancy" may precede the colour description.

3.2. FLUORESCENCE

3.2.1. Determination of fluorescence

In the same way as for the colour grades, the fluorescence grade is assessed by comparison to fluorescence-reference-diamonds. This is done under a lighting of UV-rays, wavelength 366 nm.

3.2.2. Grading of fluorescence

The fluorescence grades are:

nil - slight - medium - strong

The colour of the fluorescence is not mentioned on a certificate.

4. GRADING - CUT

4.1. CUT: DEFINITION AND DESCRIPTION

4.1.1. DEFINITION OF "CUT"

"Cut" refers to the overall description of the **proportions** on the one hand and the **finish** of the diamond on the other hand. The proportions are determinative for the brilliancy and the fire of the diamond, while the finish represents the extent to which deviations occur from the symmetry and other characteristics of the cut.

4.1.2. DESCRIPTION OF "CUT"

The description of the cut on a certificate must be split into a separate description of the proportions and of the finish.

4.2. PROPORTIONS

4.2.1. DETERMINATION OF PROPORTIONS

For a diamond to show an optimal combination of brilliancy and fire, it has to be polished with due attention to the angles of inclination and proportional relations between the various parts of the stone. If the angles and proportions are not optimal, this can lead to the appearance of one or more specific effects in the stone, which are detrimental to its beauty. When grading the proportions of a polished diamond, the main issue is therefore to evaluate if, and if so to what extent, these effects occur.

The most important effects that can be perceived when observing the stone perpendicular to the table are:

fish eye:	the reflection of the girdle is visible through the table
black table reflection:	the reflection of the table is so large that the table appears to be almost (completely) black
culet visible in bezels:	the stone shows an abnormal amount of scintillation, due to the culet and the surrounding facets being visible through the bezels
window:	the light falls through the stone and leaves it at the bottom without any reflection

single cut:

the diamond looks as if it has less facets than it actually has,

because the difference in the angle of inclination between the facets is too small (no sharp edges)

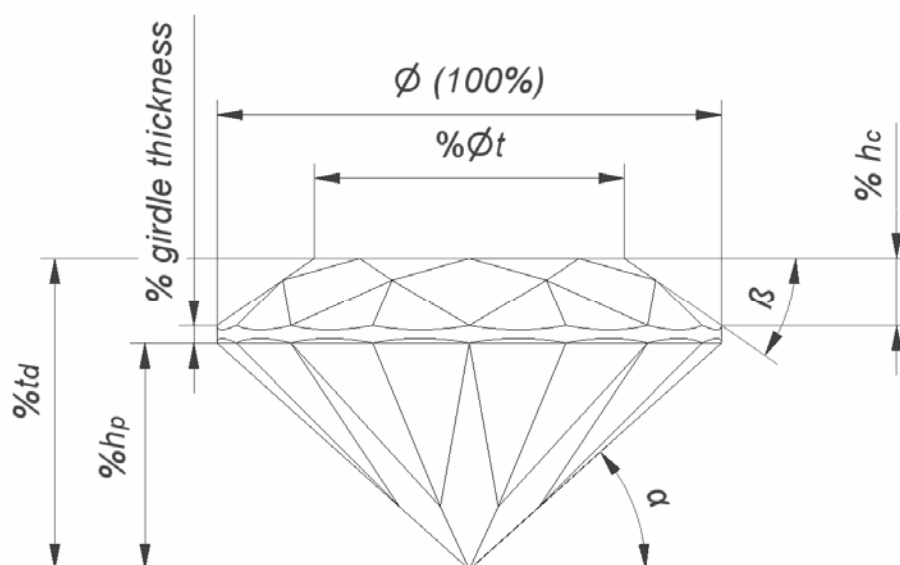
The list of effects above is not exhaustive; there are other proportions-related phenomena which are considered to be undesirable, for instance the diameter being too small in proportion to the total depth, making the stone appear smaller than its actual weight.

4.2.2. BASIC PARAMETERS OF THE CUT

The basic parameters that can characterize the cut are for the brilliant-shape:

- the crown angle (β)
- the pavilion angle (α)
- the proportion of the crown height to the diameter of the brilliant-shape (% h_c)
- the proportion of the pavilion depth to the diameter of the brilliant-shape (% h_p)
- the proportion of the table width to the diameter of the brilliant-shape (% θ_t)
- the proportion of the total depth to the diameter of the brilliant shape (% t_d)
- the girdle thickness
- the culet size

For the other shapes, basically the same parameters are involved, but then compared to the width of the diamond.



4.2.3. GRADING OF PROPORTIONS

For the brilliant-shapes, next to the actual values an appreciation can be given. The denominations are:

very good - good - unusual (medium to poor)

The measurements of the different parts of the stone can be a useful aid in determining the proportions grade, since there exists an obvious relation between these data and the appearance of the visual effects discussed in 4.2.1.

Criteria	unusual	good	very good	good	unusual
crown angle (β)	up to 26.9°	27.0° to 30.6°	30.7° to 37.7°	37.8° to 40.6°	40.7° and up
pavilion angle (α)	up to 38.4°	38.5° to 39.5°	39.6° to 42.2°	42.3° to 43.1°	43.2° and up
table width (% θ_t)	71 and up	70 to 67	66 to 53	52 to 51	50 and down
crown height (% h_c)	up to 8.5	9.0 to 10.5	11.0 to 16.0	16.5 to 18.0	18.5 and up

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girdle thickness (%)	0.0 to 0.5	1.0 to 1.5	2.0 to 4.5	5.0 to 7.5	8.0 and up
pavilion depth (% h_p) (for pointed culet)	up to 39.5	40.0 to 41.0	41.5 to 45.0	45.5 to 46.5	47.0 and up
culet size (%)	—	—	pointed to 1.9	2.0 to 3.9	4.0 and up
total depth (% t_d)	up to 52.9	53.0 to 55.4	55.5 to 63.9	64.0 to 66.9	67.0 and up

If the readings for a stone are situated in different categories, the lowest grade is considered to be the overall reading. In addition to the proportional measurements mentioned above, there are others which can have a negative influence on the final grade if they are not within certain limits, such as for example the height of the halves on the crown and on the pavilion.

4.2.4. GIRDLE THICKNESS

The girdle thickness is described in the following terms:

extremely thin - very thin - thin - medium - thick - very thick - extremely thick

The nature of the girdle can be described in the following terms:

faceted - polished – bruted

Description	thickness in %
extremely thick	8 and up
very thick	6.5 - 7.5
thick	5 - 6
medium (slightly thick)	3 - 4.5
thin	2- 2.5
very thin	1 - 1.5
extremely thin	0 - 0.5

4.2.5. DESCRIPTION OF THE CULET

The culet is described in the following terms:

pointed - linear - polished - natural

The culet is called "pointed" when the culet diameter is ≤ 0.032 mm. When the culet is described as "polished" or "natural", an additional description of the culet size can be given, expressed by means of the terms "small" - "medium" - "large", and/or by noting the proportional size of the culet as compared to the diameter of the diamond.

Description	thickness
pointed	≤ 0.032 mm
small	0.033 mm to 1.9 %
medium	2.0 % to 3.9 %
large	$\geq 4\%$

4.3. FINISH

4.3.1. DETERMINATION OF FINISH

When determining the finish grade, the symmetry-characteristics of the shape and the distribution of facets are taken into account, as well as extra facets and naturals.

The four main symmetry-deviations are:

- variation on the diameter (for brilliant-shapes)
- variation on the crown height
- deviation of the table from the central position of the diamond
- deviation of the culet from the central position of the diamond

4.3.2. FINISH GRADES

The Finish grades are:

very good - good - medium - poor

5. WEIGHT, DIAMOND SHAPES

5.1. WEIGHT

The weight of a diamond is always expressed in carats (ct), up to two decimals at least.

Is the weight expressed up to two decimals only, then it is rounded off downwards if the last three decimals are smaller than 849 (< x.xx849 ct). When the last three decimals are higher than 850 (> x.xx850 ct), the weight is rounded off upwards. (Reference norm: NEN 1047)

0.99850 ct → 0.999 ct → 1.00 ct
0.99849 ct → 0.998 ct → 0.99 ct

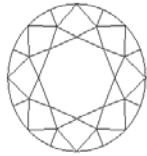
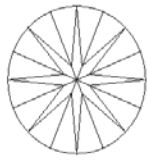
5.2. DIAMOND CUTS

5.2.1. COMMON CUT

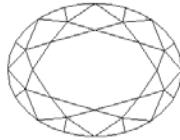
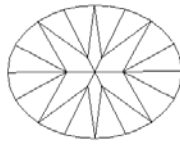
- brilliant cut
- marquise cut
- pear cut
- heart cut
- oval cut
- emerald cut

These denominations are valid for the cuts, presented here in both top and bottom view.

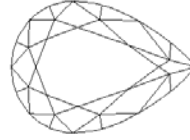
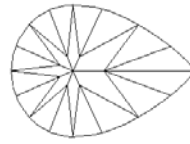
Brilliant cut



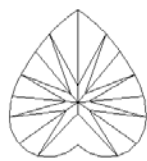
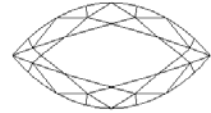
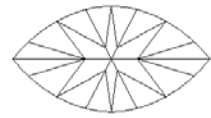
Oval cut



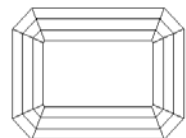
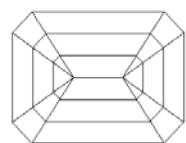
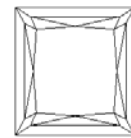
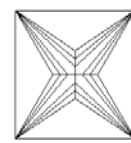
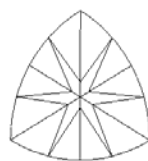
Pear cut



Marquise cut



Heart cut



Emerald cut

In case of deviations of these cuts or when similar shapes have an uncommon number of facets, they are given the additional mention "variation".

5.2.2. MEASUREMENTS

The three measurements of the shapes refer to the minimum diameter, the maximum diameter and the height (brilliant-shapes) or the length, width and height (other shapes).

Addendum to Rule 2.3.4.

Types of structure phenomena in diamonds

Speaking in terms of crystallography, the structure phenomena of diamonds can be divided into two groups:

a) structure phenomena in mono-crystals

Mono-crystals are, per definition, crystals having a crystal structure in one piece. This means that a mono-crystal is, in each of its points, oriented in the same way. In the case of a diamond, this has the effect that no change of grain direction occurs in a mono-crystal. Sawable goods are very typical examples of mono-crystals.

Generally speaking, mono-crystals can contain different kinds of structure phenomena. In diamonds, there are two typical phenomena which are encountered regularly. First, there are the so-called growth lines. These are fine-shaped zones in diamonds, difficult to find and generally seen in directions between 90° angles.

A second kind of structure phenomena in diamond mono-crystals is a grain disturbance, occurring in planes and mostly identifiable by externally visible (parallel) lines, usually over several facets of the polished diamond. These lines are called surface grain lines. The internally located planes may cause either colour effects (brownish colored zones) or white light reflections (reflective grain planes).

b) poly-crystals and their structure phenomena

A diamond can crystallize in such a way that the rough diamond is composed of two or more parts, the crystal structures of which are differently oriented. The transition between these various parts are called seams ("knots").

When such diamonds are polished, the seams are usually still identifiable in the form of internally visible seam planes and/or externally visible seam lines (knot lines).

A special form of poly-crystals are the twinning crystals, called "macles" in the trade. Macles are diamonds composed of two parts in whose respective crystal orientation there is a consistent correspondence. For the one part it is the reflected image of the other, the reflecting plane being located in a cleaving direction of the diamond. In the same way for the other poly-crystals the transition between both parts of the made is visible in the polished diamond as a plane, called twinning plane and/or as a line crossing the whole diamond, called twinning line.