

GIA to Use New Descriptive Terminology for Laboratory-Grown Diamonds



GIA®

Change reflects narrow color and clarity range of the manufactured product

Beginning later this year, GIA (the Gemological Institute of America) will start using descriptive terms to characterize the quality of laboratory-grown diamonds and will no longer use the color and clarity nomenclature that GIA developed for natural diamonds. The Institute will continue to accept laboratory-grown diamonds for evaluation and identification

The revised GIA description system for laboratory-grown diamonds will confirm that the submitted item is a laboratory-grown diamond and whether it falls into one of two categories, 'premium' or 'standard.' The categories will be defined by a combination of metrics related to color, clarity and finish. If the man-made diamond fails to achieve the minimum standard for quality, it will not receive a designation from GIA. Until the revised descriptive system for laboratory-grown diamonds is finalized, the current GIA services for laboratory-grown diamonds will continue to be available.

"Similar to other man-made gem materials,

we anticipate the continued acceptance and popularity of laboratory-grown diamonds," said Tom Moses, GIA executive vice president and chief laboratory and research officer. "More than 95% of laboratory-grown diamonds entering the market fall into a very narrow range of color and clarity. Because of that, it is no longer relevant for GIA to describe man-made diamonds using the nomenclature created for the continuum of color and clarity of natural diamonds."

GIA developed the universally accepted color and clarity scales for natural diamonds in the 1940s to clearly communicate their characteristics and reduce consumer confusion. This change to how GIA describes the quality of laboratory-grown diamonds will help consumers understand the important differences in the two products' origin, ensuring their confidence and enabling them to make informed and educated purchase decisions.

Pricing and submission guidelines for the revised GIA service for laboratory-grown diamonds are in development and will be announced late in the third quarter. Existing GIA reports for laboratory-grown diamonds remain valid.